This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase 2 (ROCK2)	<p>Studies in cell culture and mice suggest ROCK2 inhibitors could be useful for treating AD. In cultured human neuroblastoma cells and mouse brain slices, a small molecule ROCK2 inhibitor lowered activity of β-site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1) and decreased levels of β-amyloid ($A\beta$) compared with vehicle. In a mouse model of AD, the ROCK2 inhibitor lowered $A\beta$ levels compared with mock injection. Next steps could include testing the effect of ROCK2 inhibitors on behavioral and cognitive functioning in AD mouse models.</p> <p>KD025, a ROCK2 inhibitor from Kadmon Corp. LLC, has completed Phase I testing in autoimmune indications.</p> <p>SciBX 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.93 Published online Jan. 23, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Herskowitz, J.H. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Dec. 4, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2508-13.2013</p> <p>Contact: James J. Lah, Emory University School of Medicine Center for Neurodegenerative Disease, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: jjlah@emory.edu</p>