

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	$\beta$ -amyloid (A $\beta$ ); phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PIP <sub>2</sub> ); synaptojanin 1 (Synj1)	Studies in cell culture and mice suggest that antagonizing Synj1 could help treat AD. Heterozygous knockdown of Synj1 helped prevent A $\beta$ from lowering PIP <sub>2</sub> levels and causing an AD behavioral phenotype. Next steps include testing disease progression in Synj1 heterozygous knockout mice that overexpress A $\beta$ and developing selective inhibitors of Synj1.	Patented by Columbia University; licensed to Smart Biosciences Inc.	Berman, D.E. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i> ; published online April 10, 2008; doi:10.1038/nn.2100 <b>Contact:</b> Tae-Wan Kim, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: <a href="mailto:twk16@columbia.edu">twk16@columbia.edu</a> <b>Contact:</b> Gilbert Di Paolo, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: <a href="mailto:gil.dipaolo@columbia.edu">gil.dipaolo@columbia.edu</a>