This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)		An SAR study identified a series of benzofuran-based molecules that could be useful for treating AD. The seven compounds were designed to be dual inhibitors of AChE and BChE. *In vitro*, all compounds showed inhibitory activity against both enzymes; however, none had comparable potency to dual inhibitor rivastigmine, a marketed AChE inhibitor. A few of the compounds also showed inhibitory activity in a β-amyloid (Aβ) formation assay. Next steps include investigating the mechanism of neuroprotection and the *in vitro* action of these compounds on Aβ fragments. Exelon rivastigmine, a dual AChE and BChE inhibitor from Novartis AG, is marketed to treat AD and Parkinson's disease. At least four companies have AChE inhibitors in clinical trials or marketed to treat AD.	Not patented; unlicensed	Rizzo, S. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online April 18, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm8002747 **Contact:** Angela Rampa, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy e-mail: angela.rampa@unibo.it