This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β-amyloid (Aβ)	*In vitro* studies identified platinum-based Pt(II)-1,10-phenanthroline complexes (L-$PtCl_2$) as inhibitors of Aβ that could help treat AD. In cultured primary mouse cortical neurons, co-incubation with Aβ fragment $Aβ_{42}$ and one of the three L-$PtCl_2$ compounds significantly increased cell viability compared with that of control neurons that received no inhibitor ($p<0.05$). Next steps include developing compounds with improved bioavailability and demonstrating efficacy in a mouse model of AD. Prana Biotechnology Ltd.'s PBT2, a metal protein-attenuating compound, is in Phase II development to slow the progression of AD.	Patented and licensed to Prana Biotechnology	Barnham, K. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online May 5, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0800712105 **Contact:** Kevin Barnham, The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: kbarnham@unimelb.edu.au