This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 1 (FLT1)	<p>Studies in human brain tissue and in rats suggest that blocking FLT1 could be useful for treating AD. In human microglia, expression of FLT1 was significantly higher in samples from AD patients than in samples from non-demented individuals ($p < 0.05$). In rats, an anti-Flt1 antibody inhibited microglial mobility and chemotactic responses compared with what was seen in rats that received control antibody. Microglial chemotactic responses to β-amyloid ($A\beta$) peptide contribute to the loss of neuroprotection in the AD brain. Next steps include additional testing using Flt1 transgenic knockout mice to characterize the functional roles of the FLT1 receptor in AD.</p> <p>Recentin cediranib, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor of VEGF receptors 1, 2 and 3 from AstraZeneca plc, is in Phase II/III testing to treat colorectal cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.105 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Ryu, J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 7, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2888-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: James G. McLarnon, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: mclarnon@interchange.ubc.ca</p>