

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	γ -Secretase; presenilin 1 (PSEN1; PS1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that therapeutics that antagonize γ-secretase to treat AD could have undesirable effects on neural activity. PS1 is a subunit of the γ-secretase complex, which is involved in production of β-amyloid ($A\beta$) fragments in AD. In a hippocampal slice assay of neuronal activity, overexpression of a mutant variant of human PS1 associated with AD caused age-related synaptic dysfunction compared with expression of wild-type PS1.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. has LY450139, a γ-secretase inhibitor, in Phase III trials for AD. γ-Secretase modulators in Phase I AD testing include Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s BMS-299897, Wyeth's GSI-136 and GSI-954, Elan Corp. plc's ELND-006 and Eisai Co. Ltd.'s E2012. γ-Secretase modulators in preclinical development include EnVivo Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s EVP-0962 and Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A.'s CHF 5074.</p> <p>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1221 Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Auffret, A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Aug. 12, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1856-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: Alexandra Auffret, University of Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris, France e-mail: alexandraauffret@gmail.com</p>