This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Muscarinic M1 receptor (CHRM1; HM1)	A study in cell culture and in rodents suggests that enhancing CHRM1 activity could help treat AD. In cell culture, benzyl quinolone carboxylic acid (BQCA) increased the sensitivity of CHRM1 for its endogenous ligand acetylcholine compared with placebo. Next steps include further preclinical testing of BQCA analogs in mouse models of AD. Mithridion Inc.'s MCD-386, a selective CHRM1 agonist, is in Phase I testing for AD. SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1322 Published online Sept. 3, 2009	Patents pending on molecules related to BQCA; unavailable for licensing	Ma, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 24, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900903106 Contact: William J. Ray, Merck Research Labs and Imaging, West Point, Pa. e-mail: james_ray@merck.com