This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Membrane metallo- endopeptidase (MME; NEP)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that promoting processing of neuropeptide Y (NPY) by NEP could be neuroprotective and help treat AD. In a mouse model of AD, infusing NEP-processed NPY fragments into the brain decreased neurodegeneration compared with that seen using vehicle infusion. In primary human cortical neurons, the NPY fragments had increased neuroprotective effects on neurons challenged with β-amyloid (Aβ) compared with those seen using scrambled protein or vehicle. Next steps could include determining whether NEP therapy can control remodeling and seizure activity in a mouse model of AD.</p> <p>At least six companies have compounds targeting NPY receptors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.239 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Rose, J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 28, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4220-08.2009 Contact: Eliezer Masliah, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: emasliah@ucsd.edu</p>