This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Prion protein (PRNP; PrP ^{Sc})	A cell culture and mouse brain tissue study suggests that PrP ^{Sc} could be targeted to treat AD. Cultured monkey fibroblasts that expressed murine PrP ^{Sc} could bind AD-associated β -amyloid (A β) oligomers, unlike mock-transfected controls. Cultured murine hippocampal slices from PrP ^{Sc} knockout mice had lower A β oligomer-induced toxicity than wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying antibodies and small molecules that modulate PrP ^{Sc} interactions with A β oligomers and testing their effects in animal models of AD.	Patents pending; available for licensing from Yale University Contact: John Puziss, Yale University Office of Cooperative Research, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: john.puziss@yale.edu	Laurén, J. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Feb. 26, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07761 Contact: Stephen Strittmatter, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: stephen.strittmatter@yale.edu
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