This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Acetylcholinesterase (AChE); calcium channel L-type	An SAR study characterized a series of tacrine-dihydropyridine hybrids called tacripyrines that could help treat AD. The tacripyrine hybrids combine the AChE inhibitor tacrine with the calcium antagonist dihydropyridine. One of the most potent tacripyrines had an IC_{50} value of about 105 nM for AChE and had moderate Ca^{2+} channel blocking effects. The compound also inhibited AChE-mediated β-amyloid (Aβ) aggregation and Aβ self-aggregation. Next steps could include evaluating the compounds in animal models of AD. At least six companies have AChE inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat AD. *SciBX* **2**(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.715 **Published online April 30, 2009**	Patented for use in neurodegenerative diseases; available for worldwide licensing	Marco-Contelles, J. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online April 17, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801292b **Contact:** José Marco-Contelles, Insitute of General Organic Chemistry, Spanish National Research Council, Madrid, Spain e-mail: iqoc21@iqog.csic.es