This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	γ-Secretase; nicastrin (NCSTN)	Mouse studies could raise concerns about inhibiting γ-secretase to treat AD. Mice engineered for brain-specific, postnatal disruption of nicastrin, a γ-secretase subunit, showed age-related neurodegeneration compared with wild-type controls. Nicastrin knockouts had defects in learning and memory compared with wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying substrates of γ-secretase that could be targeted to prevent AD rather than targeting γ-secretase directly. Eli Lilly and Co.'s LY450139, a nonselective γ-secretase inhibitor, is in Phase III trials for AD. Eisai Co. Ltd. and Wyeth each have γ-secretase modulators in Phase I trials for AD. Elan Corp. plc and Cellzome Inc. have separate preclinical γ-secretase programs. *SciBX* 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.949 Published online June 11, 2009	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Tabuchi, K. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online June 3, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1320-09.2009 **Contact:** Jie Shen, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jshen@rics.bwh.harvard.edu