This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Calpain 1 (CAPN1); CAPN2	*In vitro* and mouse studies identified analogs of CAPN1 and CAPN2 inhibitors that cross the blood brain barrier (BBB) and could help treat neurodegenerative diseases. Increased CAPN activity in neurodegenerative diseases is established, but current inhibitors cannot cross the BBB. *In vitro*, the lead peptidyl α-ketoamide compound inhibited CAPN1 and CAPN2 with IC_{50} values of 53 and 70 nM. In mice, the inhibitor accumulated at detectable concentrations in the brain compared with the parent compound, which was undetectable. Next steps include testing these compounds in animal models of disease.	Patent applications filed; licensed to AxoTect Inc.; unavailable for licensing	Ovat, A. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online Aug. 18, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901221v **Contact:** James C. Powers, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: james.powers@chemistry.gatech.edu

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