This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β-Site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1); nicotinic acetylcholine receptor α_7 (CHRNA7)	Studies in mouse tissue culture suggest that activating CHRNA7 could help attenuate the side effects of BACE1 inhibitors for AD. In cultured hippocampal tissue from BACE1 knockout mice, a CHRNA7-specific agonist rescued defects in mossy fiber synaptic signaling that are associated with BACE1 blockade. Next steps include evaluating the effect of CHRNA7 agonists on behavioral deficits in BACE1 knockout mice. CTS-21166, a BACE1 inhibitor from CoMentis Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc. is in Phase I testing to treat AD. HPP854, a BACE1 inhibitor from TransTech Pharma Inc., is in preclinical development for AD.	Patent and licensing enquiries should be directed to The Johns Hopkins University Office of Technology Transfer	Wang, H. *et al. J. Neurosci.*; published online Oct. 13, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1070-10.2010 **Contact:** Hey-Kyoung Lee, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. e-mail: hlee21@umd.edu

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