

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD); cognitive dysfunction	Tubulin	<p>Studies in mice suggest that microtubule-stabilizing compounds that penetrate the blood-brain barrier could help treat AD. In a mouse model of τ-mediated neurodegenerative disease, the microtubule stabilizer epothilone D decreased cognitive deficits compared with vehicle control. Next steps include testing epothilone D in transgenic mice with established AD-like τ pathology.</p> <p>Epothilone D (KOS-862; R1492) was evaluated in Phase II trials for multiple cancers but Kosan Biosciences Inc. (now part of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.) and Roche discontinued its development in 2007.</p> <p>Ixempra ixabepilone, a tubulin-binding agent derived from epothilone B from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is marketed to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>Davunetide, an eight-amino-acid, activity-dependent neuroprotective protein targeting tubulin from Allon Therapeutics Inc., is in Phase II testing for AD and cognitive dysfunction.</p> <p>SciBX 3(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1242 Published online Oct. 21, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Brunden, K.R. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 13, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3059-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: Kurt R. Brunden, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: kbrunden@upenn.edu</p>