

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Cyclin dependent kinase 5 (CDK5)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that inhibition of CDK5 could be useful for treating AD. In cultured neurons, short hairpin RNA knockdown of CDK5 decreased phosphorylation of hyperphosphorylated microtubule-associated protein-<math>\tau</math> (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17), an AD-associated marker, compared with that seen using a control vector. In a mouse model of AD, shRNA knockdown of CDK5 decreased neurofibrillary tangles compared with that seen using a control vector. Next steps include optimizing the lead CDK5 antagonists and testing them in mouse models of AD.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1297</b>  <b>Published online Nov. 4, 2010</b></p>	Unpatented; small molecule CDK5 inhibitors previously identified by this team patented and available for licensing	<p>Piedrahita, D. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 20, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3637-10.2010</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Gloria Patricia Cardona-Gómez, University of Antioquia, Antioquia, Colombia  e-mail: <a href="mailto:cardona@neurociencias.udea.edu.co">cardona@neurociencias.udea.edu.co</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Kenneth S. Kosik, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:kosik@lifesci.ucsb.edu">kosik@lifesci.ucsb.edu</a></p>