This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Scavenger receptor class B member 1 (SCARB1; SR-B1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that activating SCARB1 could help treat AD. In a mouse model of AD, levels of Scarb1 expression were increased in the brain and colocalized with β-amyloid (Aβ) compared with those in healthy mice. Also in the mouse model, Scarb1 heterozygous knockout led to greater fibrillar Aβ formation and accelerated AD behavioral deficits compared with those in wild-type mice, suggesting that Scarb1 is involved in clearing Aβ. Next steps include testing whether activating SCARB1 could help reduce AD-related characteristics in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1362 Published online Nov. 18, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Thanopoulou, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 8, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1005888107 Contact: Spiros Georgopoulos, Academy of Athens, Athens, Greece e-mail: sgeorgopoulos@bioacademy.gr</p>