

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); γ -secretase	<p>Studies in mice suggest that dual inhibition of BACE1 and γ-secretase could help treat AD. In a mouse model of AD, knockout of both Bace1 and γ-secretase decreased β-amyloid (Aβ) plaque deposits and improved memory defects without toxicity or behavioral abnormalities. Next steps could include testing the BACE1 inhibitors and γ-secretase inhibitors as a combination therapy in animal models of AD.</p> <p>CTS-21166, a BACE1 inhibitor from CoMentis Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat AD.</p> <p>TTP854, a BACE1 inhibitor from TransTech Pharma Inc., is in preclinical testing for AD.</p> <p>At least four companies have γ-secretase inhibitors in clinical testing to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.158 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Chow, V. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>, published online Jan. 6, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000337</p> <p>Contact: Philip C. Wong, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: wong@jhmi.edu</p>