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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurodegenerative disease	Not applicable	Studies in rodents identified a small molecule that could help treat AD and other neurodegenerative diseases. In mice, oral administration of the compound, P7C3, stimulated the production and survival of neural precursor cells compared with administration of vehicle control. In aged adult rats, intraperitoneal injection of P7C3 significantly improved hippocampus-dependent learning compared with injection of vehicle control ($p<0.02$). Next steps include identifying the compound's molecular target and studying its function in mouse models of neurodegenerative disease. Notably, the compound shared structural similarities with Dimebon latrepirdine, a small molecule from Medivation Inc. that preserves mitochondrial membrane potential. Dimebon is partnered with Pfizer Inc. and is in Phase III trials for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Huntington's disease (HD).	Patented; available for licensing from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Office of Technology Development	Pieper, A.A. *et al. Cell*; published online July 8, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.06.018 **Contact:** Steve L. McKnight, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: steven.mcknight@utsouthwestern.edu **Contact:** Andrew A. Pieper, same affiliation as above e-mail: andrew.pieper@utsouthwestern.edu

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