

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Leptin	<p>A study in humans suggests that low leptin levels could be a risk marker for AD. Serum levels of leptin, an adipocyte-derived hormone involved in appetite, were measured in elderly individuals of European ancestry without dementia. Over the next 12 years, subjects with serum leptin levels in the lowest quartile had a 25% likelihood of developing AD compared with a 6% likelihood among subjects whose leptin levels were in the highest quartile. Next steps include testing the prognostic power of leptin levels in younger people and determining how low leptin levels contribute to AD risk.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.93 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Lieb, W. <i>et al. JAMA</i>; published online Dec. 16, 2009; doi:10.1001/jama.2009.1836 Contact: Sudha Seshadri, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: suseshad@bu.edu</p>