

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Amyloidosis	β -Amyloid (A β); microtubule-associated protein- τ (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest a lysine-binding small molecule can prevent or reverse amyloid formation to help treat amyloidosis. <i>In vitro</i> , the small molecule prevented amyloid formation of TAU and prevented and reversed amyloid formation of A β compared with an inactive control compound. In cell culture, A β aggregates pretreated with the small molecule had lower cytotoxicity than aggregates pretreated with a control compound. Studies using the small molecule in mouse models of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and α -synuclein (SNCA)-induced toxicity in a zebrafish model will be published in the near future.	Patent application filed; licensing negotiations are ongoing with Clear Therapeutics Inc., a startup founded by Nolan Sigal and Gal Bitan	Sinha, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Sept. 14, 2011; doi:10.1021/ja206279b Contact: Gal Bitan, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: gbitan@mednet.ucla.edu
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