

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid (A β)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest increasing Aβ polymerization could help treat AD. Intermediate, prefibrillar Aβ oligomer assemblies are associated with neurotoxicity in AD. In a study of Aβ peptides, an orcein-related small molecule decreased intermediate prefibrillar oligomer levels and increased long amyloid fibril levels compared with buffer control. In neuroblastoma cells incubated with Aβ peptides, the orcein compound accelerated fibril assembly and lowered amyloid cytotoxicity compared with no treatment. Next steps include confirming amyloid polymerization is effective <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 4(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1333 Published online Dec. 8, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Bieschke, J. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Nov. 20, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchembio.719</p> <p>Contact: Erich E. Wanker, Max Delbrueck Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany e-mail: ewanker@mdc-berlin.de</p>