This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 4 (MAP2K4; MKK4); MAP2K7 (MKK7)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest antagonizing MKK4 and MKK7 could help treat AD. In cultured neurons, combined <i>Mkk4</i> and <i>Mkk7</i> deletion decreased β -amyloid (A β) toxicity compared with that in wild-type controls. In a mouse model of AD, brains lacking both <i>Mkk4</i> and <i>Mkk7</i> had lower amyloid plaque and dystrophic neurite levels than brains with intact <i>Mkk4</i> and <i>Mkk7</i> . Next steps include testing the effects of <i>Mkk4</i> and <i>Mkk7</i> deletion in additional mouse models of AD and identifying inhibitors of the targets.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Mazzitelli, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Nov. 23, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4491-11.2011 Contact: Cathy Tournier, The University of Manchester, Manchester, U.K. e-mail: cathy.tournier@manchester.ac.uk
SciBX 4(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1359				
Published online Dec. 15, 2011				