

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage	β -Site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1)	<p>Studies in mice and in neuron explants suggest that inhibiting <i>BACE1</i> could help treat nerve damage. Cultured neurons isolated from <i>Bace1</i> knockout mice showed accelerated axonal regeneration postinjury compared with neurons isolated from wild-type controls. In <i>Bace1</i> knockout mice, compared with wild-type controls, axon regeneration and reinnervation of muscle following nerve injury was accelerated. Next steps could include evaluating specific BACE1 inhibitors in additional rodent models of nerve injury. CTS-21166, a BACE1 inhibitor from CoMentis Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD). HPP854, a BACE1 inhibitor from TransTech Pharma Inc., is in preclinical development for AD.</p> <p>SciBX 4(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.490 Published online April 28, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Farah, M.H. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 13, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6810-10.2011 Contact: John W. Griffin, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: jgriffi@jhmi.edu</p>