

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Prion protein (PRNP; PrP; CD230)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest mAbs against PrP could help treat AD. In one study, a high throughput screen identified two PrP-binding mAbs that blocked the PrP-β-amyloid (Aβ) interaction in human brain preparations and in rat and mouse hippocampal slices. In the second study, rats receiving a PrP-targeting Fab had less synaptic plasticity disruption from an Aβ-containing human AD brain extract than animals receiving the brain extract alone. Next steps could include preclinical development of PrP-blocking mAbs for AD.</p> <p>At least six companies have mAbs targeting Aβ in various stages of clinical development for AD.</p> <p>SciBX 4(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.716 Published online June 23, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Freir, D.B. <i>et al. Nat. Commun.</i>; published online June 7, 2011; doi:10.1038/ncomms1341 Contact: John Collinge, UCL Institute of Neurology, London, U.K. e-mail: j.collinge@prion.ucl.ac.uk Contact: Dominic M. Walsh, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: dominic.walsh@ucd.ie</p> <p>Barry, A.E. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 18, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6500-10.2011 Contact: Michael J. Rowan, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: mrowan@tcd.ie</p>