

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest a class of BACE1 inhibitors could help treat AD. Fragment-based screening, synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> testing of 2-aminoquinoline analogs identified compounds that were low nanomolar inhibitors of BACE1. In a rat model of AD, the lead compound lowered β -amyloid ($A\beta$) levels in cerebral spinal fluid compared with vehicle. Future studies could include optimizing the lead compound to improve its metabolic stability. At least four companies have BACE1 antagonists in preclinical or Phase I testing for AD. <i>SciBX</i> 4(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.859 Published online Aug. 4, 2011	Patented by Amgen Inc.; unavailable for licensing	Cheng, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 27, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200544q Contact: Ted C. Judd, Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif. e-mail: tjudd@amgen.com Contact: Yuan Cheng, same affiliation as above e-mail: yuanc@amgen.com