This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	β -Amyloid ($A\beta$); β -site APP- cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1)	<p>Mouse studies identified tannic acid as a BACE1 inhibitor that could help treat and prevent AD. In a mouse model of cerebral amyloidosis, six months of oral tannic acid decreased hyperactivity and cognitive impairment compared with vehicle ($p < 0.05$). In the same model, tannic acid lowered BACE1 protein abundance, $A\beta$ production and neuroinflammation compared with vehicle. Next steps could include evaluating tannic acid in additional mouse models of AD.</p> <p>At least four companies have BACE1 antagonists in preclinical or Phase I testing for AD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.102 Published online Jan. 26, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Mori, T. <i>et al. J. Biol. Cell</i>; published online Jan. 4, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.294025 Contact: Terrence Town, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: terrence.town@cshs.org Contact: Takashi Mori, Saitama Medical University, Saitama, Japan e-mail: t_mori@saitama-med.ac.jp</p>