

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	N-Acetyltransferase 8 (NAT8); NAT8B	Human brain tissue and cell culture studies suggest NAT8 and NAT8B could be antagonized to treat AD. In brain tissue from AD patients, compared with healthy control tissue, NAT8 and NAT8B were overexpressed. In a cell culture model of AD, a small molecule inhibitor of NAT8 and NAT8B lowered levels of β -site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1), an enzyme known to promote AD pathology, compared with vehicle. Next steps include optimizing NAT8 and NAT8B inhibitors for use in the CNS.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Ding, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Jan. 20, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.310136 Contact: Luigi Puglielli, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: lp1@medicine.wisc.edu
<p>SciBX 5(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.158 Published online Feb. 9, 2012</p>				