

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)	<p>Rodent studies identified a BACE1 inhibitor that could help treat AD. In mice and guinea pigs, a single oral dose of the BACE1 inhibitor AZ-4217 potently inhibited BACE1 and decreased β-amyloid ($A\beta$) levels in the plasma, brain and cerebrospinal fluid compared with vehicle. In a mouse model for AD, Bace1 decreased amyloid deposition compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing the inhibitor in additional AD models.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. has the BACE1 inhibitor MK-8931 in Phase II/III testing to treat AD.</p> <p>At least five other companies have BACE1 inhibitors in Phase II testing or earlier to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 6(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.662 Published online July 11, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Eketjäll, S. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online June 12, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1165-13.2013 Contact: Susanna Eketjäll, AstraZeneca Translational Sciences Centre, Solna, Sweden e-mail: susanna.eketjall@astrazeneca.com</p>