Abnormalities of the neuronal endocytic pathway are an early cellular manifestation of sporadic Alzheimer’s disease, the most common form of Alzheimer’s disease. Endosomes are a major site of beta-amyloid peptide production in normal cells. Cell modeling studies implicate dysfunction of endosomes in the mechanism of beta-amyloid deposition. The identification of endosomal abnormalities at preclinical stages of disease and the central role of the endocytic pathway in beta-amyloid peptide generation suggest that endocytic pathway dysfunction is an initiating event in Alzheimer’s disease. **The invention is a novel method for identifying compounds useful in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.** Compounds which alter endocytic pathway activation and/or function should prove to be efficacious in treating Alzheimer’s disease. The methods for identifying these compounds are based on cellular and animal models.

**FEATURES**

- Large market – An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer’s disease.
- Unique approach – the relationship between Alzheimer's disease and the endocytic pathway is a unique approach to understanding the cellular pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease.
- Rapid & efficient – screening based on cellular and animal models.
- Mechanistic link between the endocytic pathway and beta-amyloid generation and deposition.

**BENEFITS**

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATUS**

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