This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	<i>Unc-13 homolog A</i> (<i>UNC13A</i>)	A genomewide association study identified SNPs associated with sporadic ALS that could help predict disease susceptibility. The SNPs include one in <i>UNC13A</i> , which encodes a protein that regulates release of neurotransmitters at neuromuscular synapses, and two on chromosome 9p21.2 in a region associated with familial ALS. Next steps include mechanistic studies to understand the pathways associated with the genes and how they might contribute to the disease or could be targeted.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	van Es, M.A. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online Sept. 6, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.442 Contact: Leonard H. Van Den Berg, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: L.H.vandenBerg@umcutrecht.nl Contact: Roel A. Ophoff, same affiliation as above e-mail: R.A.Ophoff@umcutrecht.nl
		<i>SciBX</i> 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1353 Published online Sept. 10, 2009		