This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Encephalopathy	Ethylmalonic encephalopathy 1 (ETHE1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that upregulating ETHE1 could be useful for treating sulfide toxicity associated with ethylmalonic encephalopathy. ETHE1, a mitochondrial sulfur dioxygenase that metabolizes sulfide compounds, is mutated in ethylmalonic encephalopathy. In mice lacking <i>Ethe1</i>, urinary and tissue thiosulfate levels were higher than those seen in their wild-type littermates. Increased urinary thiosulfate levels were also seen in humans with the disease. Next steps could include identifying strategies to decrease hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) production or improve clearance of H₂S.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.153 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Tiranti, V. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 11, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1907</p> <p>Contact: Massimo Zeviani, Institute of Neurology “Carlo Besta”, Scientific Institute for Hospitalization and Health Care (IRCCS) Foundation, Milan, Italy e-mail: zeviani@istituto-besta.it</p>