This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Kinesin-associated protein 3 (KIFAP3)	<p>Genomics studies suggest that KIFAP3 inhibition could slow the progression of sporadic ALS. Genomewide SNP analysis of DNA from sporadic ALS patients found a correlation between a variant allele of <i>KIFAP3</i> and an increase of about 14 months in post-diagnosis survival compared with healthy individuals ($p=1.84 \times 10^{-8}$). Sequencing and functional analyses showed that the variant allele was associated with lower KIFAP3 expression compared with KIFAP3 expression when the normal allele was present, indicating that the protein may contribute to ALS disease progression. Next steps could include knocking out or inhibiting <i>KIFAP3</i> expression in animal models of ALS.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.836 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Landers, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 11, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812937106 Contact: John E. Landers, Massachusetts General Hospital East, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: john.landiers@umassmed.edu</p>