This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	CD40 ligand (CD40LG; CD40L; CD154); superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that blocking CD40L could help treat ALS. In a mouse model of ALS, a mAb against CD40L significantly prolonged survival compared with saline control ($p=0.0043$). The mAb also delayed weight loss and disease onset. Next steps include testing a humanized version of the anti-CD40L mAb in clinical trials.</p> <p>ALS Therapy Development Institute's ALS TDI 00846, an antibody that inhibits CD40L, is in preclinical development for ALS.</p> <p>Biogen Idec Inc. and UCB Group have an anti-CD40L Fab in preclinical development to treat lupus.</p> <p>SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.442 Published online April 8, 2010</p>	Provisional patent application filed covering all blocking reagents against CD40L in all neurodegenerative indications including ALS; unavailable for licensing	<p>Lincecum, J.M. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online March 28, 2010; doi:10.1038/ng.557</p> <p>Contact: Steven Perrin, ALS Therapy Development Institute, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: sperrin@als.net</p>