This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Optineurin (<i>OPTN</i>); NF-κB	Genetic association studies suggest that mutations in <i>OPTN</i> could help predict risk of familial and sporadic ALS. Genetic studies of ALS patients identified higher frequencies of homozygous deletions, nonsense mutations and missense mutations in <i>OPTN</i> compared with frequencies in healthy controls. Next steps include developing ALS animal models with the <i>OPTN</i> mutation.	Patent applications filed for the diagnosis, development of ALS animal models and drug development; available for licensing	Maruyama, H. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online April 29, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08971 Contact: Hideshi Kawakami, Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan e-mail: hkawakam@hiroshima-u.ac.jp
SciBX 3(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.561 Published online May 6, 2010				