This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Ubiquilin 2 (UBQLN2)	<p>Studies in patient samples identified mutations in UBQLN2 that could help guide the diagnosis and treatment of ALS. In ALS patient samples, genetic sequencing identified mutations at five proline sites in UBQLN2 that were not found in either a SNP database or in 928 ethnically matched control samples. In postmortem CNS tissue samples from ALS patients, anti-UBQLN2 antibodies bound to inclusion bodies, which are a hallmark of disease pathology. Next steps include additional <i>in vitro</i> and animal model studies to better understand the link between UBQLN2 mutations and ALS.</p> <p>SciBX 4(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.969 Published online Sept. 1, 2011</p>	<p>Provisional patent filed; available for licensing from the Northwestern University Innovation and New Ventures Office</p> <p>Contact: Michael Moore, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: michaelmoore@northwestern.edu</p>	<p>Deng, H.-X. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Aug. 21, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10353</p> <p>Contact: Teepu Siddique, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: t-siddique@northwestern.edu</p>