This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Potassium channel K2p2.1 (KCNK2; TREK-1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest TREK-1 activation could help treat disorders involving blood brain barrier (BBB) dysfunction, such as MS. In <i>Trek-1^{-/-}</i> mice, leukocyte infiltration across the BBB into the CNS was greater than that in wild-type mice. In a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis, TREK-1-activating compounds such as riluzole and linseed oil decreased disease severity compared with no treatment. Next steps include developing selective TREK-1 activators.</p> <p>Sanofi markets Rilutek riluzole to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).</p> <p>SciBX 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.951 Published online Sept. 12, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Bittner, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 11, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3303 Contact: Sven G. Meuth, University of Muenster, Muenster, Germany e-mail: sven.meuth@ukmuenster.de Contact: Stefan Bittner, same affiliation as above e-mail: stefan.bittner@ukmuenster.de</p>