This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Matrix metalloproteinase 9 (MMP9)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting MMP9 could help treat ALS. In patients with ALS and in mouse models, slow motor neurons and neurons regulating eye movement and sexual function were resistant to neurodegeneration. In mouse models of ALS, levels of <i>Mmp9</i> in these neurons were lower than those in fast motor neurons lost during disease progression. In the models, genetic inactivation of <i>Mmp9</i> or intracerebroventricular administration of a research-grade MMP9 inhibitor delayed the onset of disease symptoms, decreased loss of motor functions and increased survival compared with unmodified <i>Mmp9</i> expression or vehicle. Ongoing work includes confirming the proneurodegenerative role of MMP9 in patients with ALS.</p> <p>SciBX 7(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.178 Published online Feb. 13, 2014</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Kaplan, A. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Jan. 22, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2013.12.009 Contact: Christopher E. Henderson, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ch2331@columbia.edu</p>