This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 α kinase 3 (EIF2AK3; PERK); TAR DNA binding protein 43 (TDP-43; TARDBP)	<p>Studies in flies and primary rat neurons suggest inhibiting EIF2AK3 could help treat ALS. In a tdp-43-expressing fly model of ALS, siRNA-mediated or pharmacological inhibition of PERK decreased deficits in climbing ability and increased eif2a phosphorylation compared with no inhibition. In rat primary cortical neurons expressing Tdp-43, a PERK inhibitor decreased Tdp-43-associated toxicity compared with vehicle. Next steps include using the ALS fly model to identify other cellular pathways that play a role in EIF2A phosphorylation and TDP-43 toxicity.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.94 Published online Jan. 23, 2014</p>	Patented; licensed by FoldRx Pharmaceuticals Inc., which Pfizer Inc. acquired in 2010	<p>Kim, H.-J. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Dec. 15, 2013; doi:10.1038/ng.2853 Contact: Nancy M. Bonini, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: nbonini@sas.upenn.edu</p>