This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 5 (CCR5)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that upregulation or activation of CCR5 in microglia could help treat inflammation associated with ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases. Lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced inflammatory cytokine release and nitric oxide (NO) production were suppressed in cultured wild-type mouse microglia compared with what was seen in cultured <i>Ccr5</i>^{-/-} mouse microglia. In addition, <i>Ccr5</i>^{-/-} mice showed more nerve injury-induced motor neuron death than wild-type mice. Next steps include additional preclinical testing in animal models of ALS and multiple sclerosis (MS). At least nine CCR5 inhibitors are in development stages ranging from Phase I to marketed to treat HIV/AIDS. SciBX 1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1023 Published online Nov. 20, 2008	Unpatented; unlicensed	Gamo, K. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 12, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2920-08.2008 Contact: Hiroshi Kiyama, Osaka City University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: kiyama@med.osaka-cu.ac.jp