This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Protease-activated receptor 1 (PAR1)	Studies in mice suggest that PAR1 agonists could help treat familial ALS. In a mouse model of superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1)-driven ALS, treatment with a modified form of the PAR1 ligand activated protein C (APC) reduced disease severity and increased survival compared with mock treatment. Next steps include engineering APC variants that minimize off-target effects on blood coagulation. About 20% of familial ALS cases involve mutations in SOD1. Xigris drotrecogin alfa, a recombinant human APC from Eli Lilly and Co., is marketed to treat sepsis. ***SciBX*** **2(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1609** **Published online Nov. 5, 2009**	Covered by issued and pending patents from the University of Rochester, The Scripps Research Institute and ZZ Biotech LLC	Zhong, Z. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online Oct. 19, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI38476 **Contact:** Berislav V. Zlokovic, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: berislav_zlokovic@urmc.rochester.edu