

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that preventing the inhibition of dismutase active mutant SOD1 in Schwann cells may slow ALS progression. In ALS mice with a Schwann cell-specific knockout of dismutase active mutant SOD1, disease progression was significantly faster than that seen in controls without the tissue-specific knockout (<math>p=0.0003</math>). In sciatic nerves from the mice with accelerated ALS progression, insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF1) levels were lower than those seen in controls. IGF1 protects motor neurons in ALS mice. Next steps could include developing strategies to prevent SOD1 inhibition in Schwann cells.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.418</b>  <b>Published online March 12, 2009</b></p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lobsiger, C.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 23, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813339106</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Don W. Cleveland, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:dcleveland@ucsd.edu">dcleveland@ucsd.edu</a></p>