

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	BCL2-associated X protein (BAX); BCL2-antagonist/killer 1 (BAK1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting the mitochondrial apoptotic pathway could help treat familial ALS. In a mouse model of familial ALS, CNS-specific deletion of both <i>BAX</i> and <i>BAK1</i>, two proapoptotic genes, delayed symptom onset and increased both the number of motor neurons and survival compared with wild-type gene expression. Next steps include identifying the signals responsible for activating the pathway in ALS.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1154</b> Published online Sept. 30, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Reyes, N.A. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 20, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42986</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Scott A. Oakes, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:scott.oakes@ucsf.edu">scott.oakes@ucsf.edu</a></p>