

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting AMPK signaling could help treat SOD1-driven ALS. About 15% of familial ALS cases involve mutations in <i>superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1)</i>. In cultured rat motor neurons, an AMPK inhibitor decreased mutant Sod1-induced cell death compared with vehicle. An AMPK activator increased mutant Sod1-induced cell death compared with vehicle. Next steps could include screening for a lead AMPK inhibitor and evaluating the compound in mammalian models of ALS.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.130</b>  <b>Published online Feb. 2, 2012</b></p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lim, M.A. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2012; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.6554-10.2012  <b>Contact:</b> Robert G. Kalb, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:kalb@email.chop.edu">kalb@email.chop.edu</a></p>