This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Serine/threonine kinase 4 (STK4); *superoxide dismutase 1* (*SOD1*)	Human tissue and mouse studies suggest STK4 inhibitors could help treat ALS. In spinal cord motor neurons from patients with sporadic ALS and mutant *SOD1* transgenic mouse models for ALS, levels of activated STK4 were higher than those in neurons from healthy individuals and transgenic mice expressing wild-type *SOD1*. In the mutant *SOD1* mouse model, homozygous *Stk4* deletion slowed disease onset, increased motor neuron viability and neuromuscular function and decreased mortality compared with no deletion. Ongoing work includes identifying small molecule inhibitors of STK4.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Lee, J.K. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online July 1, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1300894110 **Contact:** Eui-Ju Choi, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: ejchoi@korea.ac.kr

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