This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	Prostaglandin D_2 receptor subtype DP1 (PTGDR1; DP1); superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting DP1 could help treat ALS. Microglia from mutant SOD1 mouse models of ALS induce toxicity in motor neurons. In cocultures of stem cell–derived human motor neurons and glia from mutant SOD1 mouse models of ALS, a selective inhibitor of DP1 increased motor neuron survival compared with vehicle. In mutant SOD1 mouse models of ALS, deficiency in *Dp1* decreased microglia-activated disease progression and increased survival compared with normal Dp1 expression. Next steps could include testing DP1 inhibitors in the mouse model of ALS. Merck & Co. Inc.'s Cordaptive (MK-0524A), a combination of the selective DP1 inhibitor laropiprant and extended-release niacin, is approved to treat dyslipidemia and hypercholesterolemia. The drug also is in Phase III testing for atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. Merck also has MK-0524B, an extended-release, fixed-dose combination of MK-0524A and the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor simvastatin, in Phase III testing to treat atherosclerosis.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	de Boer, A.S. *et al. Sci. Transl. Med.*; published online Aug. 6, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3009351 **Contact:** Kevin Eggan, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: eggan@mcb.harvard.edu **Contact:** A. Sophie de Boer, same affiliation as above e-mail: sdeboer@mcb.harvard.edu

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