This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology; stroke	Oligodendrocyte lineage transcription factor 2 (OLIG2)	Studies in mice suggest that modulating OLIG2 expressed by proliferating astrocytes in the glial scar could help treat cortical injury following stroke and brain trauma. In mouse models of acute cortical injury, Olig2 was upregulated in reactive astrocytes in the lesion compared with what was seen in sites distant from the lesion. Also, cortex-specific <i>Olig2</i> knockout led to less proliferation of reactive astrocytes—the main component of the glial scar—compared with that seen in control mice that expressed <i>Olig2</i> . Ongoing research includes developing modulators that regulate Olig2 expression to treat neurodegeneration after brain injury or stroke.	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	Chen, Y. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Oct. 22, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3545- 08.2008 Contact: Q. Richard Lu, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: qrichard.lu@utsouthwestern.edu
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