This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Not applicable	<p>Studies in mice suggest that administration of exogenous macrophages could help promote recovery following SCI. In mouse SCI models, i.v. infusion of naive monocytes significantly improved functional recovery compared with no treatment ($p=0.0001$). In pre-SCI mice, animals given a vaccine that increased monocyte-derived macrophage levels had significantly better postinjury functional recovery than unvaccinated mice. Next steps include determining the optimal timing and cell numbers for using macrophage-based therapies to treat SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1224 Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	<p>Work patented; licensed to Proneuron Biotechnologies Inc.</p>	<p>Shechter, R. <i>et al. PLoS Med.</i>; published online July 27, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1000113 Contact: Michal Schwartz, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: Michal.Schwartz@weizmann.ac.il</p>