This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage; neuropathy	Translocator protein (18kDa) (TSPO)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that etifoxine could improve axon regeneration to potentially treat peripheral nerve injuries and axonal neuropathy. Studies in neuronal PC12 cells showed that etifoxine exerted neurotrophic effects by binding TSPO. Following injury of the rat sciatic nerve, etifoxine led to faster regeneration, increased axonal regrowth and decreased macrophage recruitment and inflammation at the injury site compared with what was seen in vehicle-treated controls. Etifoxine also improved the rate and extent of functional recovery in rats compared with that seen in untreated rats. Next steps could include clinical trials of the drug in nerve damage. Etifoxine is a generic anxiolytic and anticonvulsant.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.66 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Girard, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 15, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811201106 Contact: Michael Schumacher, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: etienne.baulieu@inserm.fr Contact: Etienne-Emile Baulieu, same affiliation as above e-mail: michael.schumacher@inserm.fr</p>