This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Reticulon 4 receptor (RTN4R; NgR; NgR1); reticulon 4 receptor-like 2 (RTN4RL2; NgR2); myelin-associated glycoprotein (MAG)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a chimeric decoy receptor of NgR1 and NgR2 could help treat nervous system injury. Binding of MAG and other ligands to NgR1 and NgR2 expressed on neurons inhibits neuronal regrowth following injury. <i>In vitro</i> , a soluble chimera of the NgR1 and NgR2 receptors had a higher binding affinity for MAG than either wild-type receptor. The chimera also promoted neurite outgrowth of neurons plated on MAG and CNS myelin substrates. Next steps include testing whether the chimeric receptor, dubbed NgR ^{OMNI} -Fc, can increase neuronal outgrowth and improve outcomes following SCI in rats. SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.805 Published online May 14, 2009	Patent application filed for the sequence combination of NgR1 and NgR2 used to make the chimeric NgR ^{OMNI} -Fc; available for licensing	Robak, L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online May 6, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4935-08.2009 Contact: Roman J. Giger, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: rgiger@umich.edu