This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that transplanting oligodendrocyte precursor cells in combination with CNTF could help improve functional recovery after SCI. Demyelination following SCI is caused by oligodendrocyte cell death, which leads to neural dysfunction. In rats, transplantation of CNTF-expressing oligodendrocyte precursor cells after SCI led to fourfold greater engraftment and better axonal remyelination, electrophysical function and locomotor function than transplantation of control precursor cells. Next steps could include testing the combination therapy in animal models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Cao, Q. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Feb. 24, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3174-09.2010 Contact: Qilin Cao, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, Texas e-mail: qi-lin.cao@uth.tmc.edu
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