This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage; stroke	Reticulon 4 (RTN4; NOGO-A; NOGO; NOGO-B)	<p>Rat studies suggest treatment with NOGO-A inhibitors followed by physical therapy could help improve motor recovery after stroke. In rats subjected to ipsilateral stroke-induced destruction of the sensory-motor cortex, intrathecal treatment with an anti-Nogo-A antibody for two weeks followed by two weeks of intensive physical training increased motor function recovery compared with anti-Nogo-A antibody treatment given in parallel with physical training or control antibody treatment plus physical training. In the injured rats, the sequential treatment regimen led to the organized growth and sprouting of neuronal fibers, whereas the parallel treatment regimen led to a disorganized growth pattern. Next steps include evaluating the sequential treatment regimen in a Phase I/IIa clinical trial.</p> <p>Novartis AG's anti-NOGO mAb, ATI355, is in Phase I testing to treat spinal cord injury (SCI). GlaxoSmithKline plc's humanized anti-NOGO mAb, ozanezumab, is in Phase II trials to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).</p> <p>SciBX 7(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.800 Published online July 17, 2014</p>	Patented; licensed to Novartis	<p>Wahl, A.S. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online June 13, 2014; doi:10.1126/science.1253050</p> <p>Contact: M.E. Schwab, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: schwab@hifo.uzh.ch</p> <p>Contact: A.S. Wahl, same affiliation as above e-mail: wahl@hifo.uzh.ch</p>