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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN; MMAC1; TEP1); tuberous sclerosis 1 (TSC1)	Studies in mice suggest that PTEN inhibitors could be useful for promoting axon regeneration and treating SCI. PTEN negatively regulates cell growth by blocking downstream mTOR-mediated protein synthesis. In mice with conditional *Pten* knockout in retinal ganglion cells, there was greater neuronal survival and axon regeneration following optic nerve injury compared with what was seen in wild-type mice. Also in mouse retinal ganglion cells, conditional knockout of *Tsc1*, a downstream Pten effector, promoted cell survival and axon regeneration. Next steps include studying PTEN inhibition in rodent models of SCI. ***SciBX*** **1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1028** **Published online Nov. 20, 2008**	Findings patented; licensing status undisclosed	Park, K. *et al. Science*; published online Nov. 7, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1161566 **Contact:** Zhigang He, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: zhigang.he@childrens.harvard.edu