

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans (CSPGs)	<p>A study in rats suggests that digesting CSPGs with the bacterial chondroitinase ABC (ChABC) could improve recovery following peripheral nerve graft to help treat chronic SCI. In rat SCI models receiving peripheral nerve grafts, delivery of ChABC to scarred regions produced better functional recovery than that in animals that received only grafts. ChABC helped regenerating axons grow beyond the nerve graft region and cross into the spinal cord. Next steps include developing strategies to further improve functional recovery and evaluating whether combining chondroitinase with peripheral nerve graft can be generalized to different types of SCIs. ChABC, a bacterial enzyme that breaks down CSPGs from Acorda Therapeutics Inc., is in preclinical development for SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1737 Published online Dec. 10, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Tom, V.J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3641-09.2009</p> <p>Contact: John D. Houle, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: jhoule@drexelmed.edu</p>