

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase 2 (ROCK2); reticulin 4 (RTN4; NOGO-A; NOGO)	Studies in rats suggest that ROCK2 inhibitors could help treat SCI. <i>In vitro</i> , dorsal root ganglion neurons from <i>Rock2</i> knockout mice were less sensitive to Nogo-induced growth inhibition and had greater axonal outgrowth than neurons from wild-type controls. In two models of SCI, the <i>Rock2</i> knockout rats had more axon regeneration and behavioral recovery, such as forepaw use, than wild-type controls. Next steps could include identifying and testing ROCK2 inhibitors in animal models of SCI.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Duffy, P. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Dec. 2, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4650-09.2009 Contact: Stephen M. Strittmatter, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: stephen.strittmatter@yale.edu
<p>SciBX 2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1738 Published online Dec. 10, 2009</p>				