

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Complement component 1q subcomponent A chain (C1QA)	Studies in mice suggest that blocking specific components of the complement cascade could help improve SCI recovery. Following contusion-induced SCI, <i>C1qa</i> knockout mice had greater locomotor recovery ($p < 0.05$) and less hypersensitivity to mild stimuli than wild-type mice. The knockouts also showed transient increases in microglia and macrophages in the spinal cord and less lesion volume at 28 days post-injury compared with wild-type littermates ($p < 0.05$ for both). Next steps include determining the role of other complement components in SCI recovery and assessing the activity of a complement 1 inhibitor in rodent SCI models.	Findings unpatented; may eventually be available for licensing	Galvan, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Dec. 17, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2823-08.2008 Contact: Aileen J. Anderson, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: aja@uci.edu
		<i>SciBX</i> 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.27 Published online Jan. 8, 2009		