This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	Reticulon 4 receptor (RTN4R; NgR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that a soluble peptide fragment of NgR (sNgR) could enable axon regeneration and help treat SCI. In a rat model of SCI, continuous intracranial infusion of sNgR for one month significantly regenerated sensory axons compared with untreated controls. Electrophysiological studies of responses to forelimb stimulation confirmed that the regenerated axons had formed functional connections to the spinal cord. Ongoing work will assess the long-term effects of the soluble peptide. Proneuron Biotechnologies Inc.'s ProCord autologous incubated macrophage therapy is in Phase II/III testing to treat SCI. Alseres Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Cethrin (BA-210), a recombinant C3 exoenzyme protein that antagonizes Rho GTPase, is in Phase II/III testing to treat acute thoracic and cervical SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.842 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Harvey, P. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 13, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5885-08.2009</p> <p>Contact: Eric Frank, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: eric.frank@tufts.edu</p>