

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Spinal cord injury (SCI)	MAP kinase-activated protein kinase 2 (MAPKAPK2; MK2)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting MK2 could help decrease inflammatory damage after SCI. In mouse spinal cords, expression and phosphorylation of MK2 were greater in SCI mice than in healthy mice and were highest at the peak of inflammation following injury. In mice with spinal cord contusion, compared with wild-type mice, <i>Mk2</i> knockout led to greater locomotion recovery, lower levels of proinflammatory cytokines and neutrophil influx and less secondary damage due to inflammation. Next steps could include developing and testing MK2 inhibitors in the mouse models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1245 Published online Oct. 21, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ghasemlou, N. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 13, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2998-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: Samuel David, Research Institute of the McGill University Health Center, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: sam.david@mcgill.ca</p>