

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Not applicable	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that pretreatment of embryonic stem cells (ESCs) through coculture with stromal cells could help generate neural precursors for neuron replacement therapies. <i>In vitro</i>, coculture of ESCs with stromal cells generated precursors that expressed a neuronal progenitor cell marker within a week and expressed mature neuron markers in two weeks. In mice, transplantation of the precursors into different regions of the cortex led to the development of proper dendritic and axonal connectivity and the differentiation of the precursor cells into appropriate neuronal types. Next steps could include testing the precursor cells in animal models of neurological diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.161 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unknown	<p>Ideguchi, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 20, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4318-09.2010 Contact: James M. Weimann, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: jweimann@stanford.edu</p>