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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage; neurology; stroke	Inositol polyphosphate-4-phosphatase type I (INPP4A)	A study in mice suggests that increasing *INPP4A* expression could help prevent excitotoxicity-induced nerve damage that leads to brain ischemia and chronic neurodegenerative disease. *Inpp4a*-deficient mice had excitotoxicity-induced neurodegeneration in the striatum and displayed severe involuntary muscle movements compared with wild-type mice. In these mice, recombinant Inpp4a significantly blocked excitotoxicity-induced neurodegeneration compared with placebo ($p<0.01$). Next steps include studying how *INPP4A* dosage affects the severity of ischemia-induced neuronal damage in the brain. ***SciBX*** **3(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.656** **Published online May 27, 2010**	Work unpatented; licensing inquiries should be directed to the corresponding author **Contact:** Junko Sasaki, Akita University, Akita, Japan e-mail: sasakij@med.akita-u.ac.jp	Sasaki, J. *et al. Nature*; published online May 12, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09023 **Contact:** Junko Sasaki, Akita University, Akita, Japan e-mail: sasakij@med.akita-u.ac.jp