

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Stroke	Reticulon 4 (RTN4; NOGO-A; NOGO)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that inosine plus NOGO inhibition could help increase functional motor recovery after stroke. In a rat model of stroke-induced motor impairment, ventricular infusion of both inosine and a NOGO inhibitor led to better recovery of forelimb function after four weeks than infusion of either compound alone ($p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$, respectively). The improvements lasted for at least a month after treatment. Next steps could include evaluating the combination therapy in large animal models of stroke.</p> <p>Alseres Pharmaceuticals Inc. has Axosine inosine in preclinical development for traumatic CNS injuries such as spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p> <p>Novartis AG's ATI355, an antibody against NOGO, is in Phase I testing to treat SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 4(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.492 Published online April 28, 2011</p>	<p>Inosine and its use in traumatic CNS injuries covered by issued and pending patents; available for licensing from Alseres Pharmaceuticals</p>	<p>Zai, L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 20, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4498-10.2011 Contact: Larry I. Benowitz, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Mass. e-mail: larry.benowitz@childrens.harvard.edu</p>