

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Nerve damage	Nerve growth factor (NGF); tumor necrosis factor receptor 1 (TNFRSF1A; TNFR1; CD120a); tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest activating membrane-tethered TNF- α could help promote nerve repair following injury. In cultured neurons, the known axon growth promoter NGF plus soluble TNFR1 or TNFR1-Fc increased axon growth and branching compared with NGF alone. In tissues from <i>Tnf</i> ^{-/-} or <i>Tnfr1</i> ^{-/-} mice, sympathetic innervation density was lower than that in tissues from wild-type mice. Next steps could include testing activation of TNF- α signaling in models for nerve injury.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Kisiswa, L. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i> ; published online June 9, 2013; doi:10.1038/nn.3430 Contact: Alun M. Davies, Cardiff University, Cardiff, U.K. e-mail: daviesalun@cf.ac.uk
		SciBX 6(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.665 Published online July 11, 2013		