

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p>Mouse studies suggest activating EGFR could improve outcomes following neonatal brain injury. Chronic hypoxia is a clinically relevant model of premature brain injury caused by insufficient gas exchange due to poor lung development. In mice with chronic hypoxia, oligodendrocyte-specific overexpression of EGFR after brain injury induced oligodendrocyte functional recovery and decreased oligodendrocyte death and white matter-dependent behavioral deficits compared with no overexpression. In the hypoxic mice, intranasal administration of an activating EGFR ligand, heparin-binding EGF, led to similar results. Next steps could include testing intranasally delivered heparin-binding EGF in additional brain injury models.</p> <p>SciBX 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.96 Published online Jan. 23, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Scafidi, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Dec. 25, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12880 Contact: Vittorio Gallo, Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C. e-mail: vgallo@cnmcresearch.org</p>