

Axerion Therapeutics Announces Positive Preclinical Results with Nogo Decoy Receptor Therapy in Chronic Spinal Cord Injury Study

Nogo Decoy Receptor Shown to be Effective; Demonstrates Ability to Enhance Recovery of Motor Function in a Preclinical Model of Chronic Spinal Cord Injury

New Haven, CT – Jan. 03, 2012- [Axerion Therapeutics](#), a private Connecticut-based biotechnology company, today announced data published by Yale University in the peer-reviewed journal, *Annals of Neurology*, demonstrating that Nogo decoy receptor (NgR) is effective in a preclinical model of chronic spinal cord injury. Dr. Stephen Strittmatter of Yale University, the senior author of the study and a consultant to Axerion, commented, “ Nogo decoy receptor therapy promotes recovery of function when treatment is initiated three months after injury. This observation significantly extends the positive effect of NgR decoy receptor therapy seen in several previously published preclinical studies of acute and sub-acute spinal cord injury.”

The enhanced recovery with NgR treatment was measured by several parameters in animal trials including motor score, weight-bearing status and computerized limb kinematics. Treatment for three months allowed 29% of injured animals to regain the ability to bear weight and walk whereas no recovery was found in animals treated with an inactive control protein. The publication is titled, “Recovery from chronic spinal cord contusion after nogo receptor intervention,” and is available online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ana.22527/abstract>.

“As a target for intervention, chronic spinal cord injury has several distinct advantages over acute spinal cord injury including faster recruitment for clinical studies, stable baseline function when measuring recovery of motor skills and the potential to benefit a greater patient population.” said Sylvia McBrinn, CEO of Axerion Therapeutics. “We are thrilled to observe the Nogo decoy receptor benefit in chronic spinal cord injury, and to note that the therapy also has applications in cases of stroke and glaucoma, among other indications” further commented Ms McBrinn.

Axerion is currently developing the Nogo decoy receptor for chronic spinal cord injury at its corporate headquarters in New Haven, CT.

About Axerion Therapeutics, Inc. Axerion Therapeutics Inc. is a private Connecticut-based biotechnology company focused on developing innovative therapeutics for neurological diseases and injuries with significant unmet medical need, including Alzheimer’s disease and spinal cord injury. Axerion was established in New Haven to develop and commercialize intellectual property developed in Dr. Stephen Strittmatter’s laboratory and licensed from Yale University. Axerion’s proprietary technology platforms include blockers of amyloid-beta oligomer binding to prion protein (PrP) on the cell surface of neurons as a novel therapeutic target for Alzheimer’s disease and Nogo decoy receptor protein for recovery of neurological function in spinal cord injury and other neurological diseases. Axerion is a Connecticut Innovations portfolio company. For more information on Axerion, please visit www.axeriontherapeutics.com.