

**Docket #:** S13-065

# **TGF Beta Agonists for Neuroprotection and Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease**

Prof. Tony Wyss-Coray and colleagues have identified a first-in-class small molecule with the potential for treating Alzheimer's disease and reversing some of its pathology. This compound was discovered due to its agonist effect on TGF-beta (a protein that has been shown to reduce ABeta accumulation in mouse models of Alzheimer's disease). Pre-clinical studies have demonstrated that oral administration of this agent can delay or reduce neurodegeneration and cognitive impairment in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. In addition, the molecule provided neuroprotection in a mouse model of neuronal damage.

## **Stage of Research**

The inventors have performed a wide range of pre-clinical studies and are planning to apply for grants to support an IND filing. Studies to date include:

- characterization as orally active drug with minimal toxicity
- testing to verify activation TGF-beta signaling in the CNS
- demonstration of neuroprotective effects in vivo with models of acute neurodegeneration and Alzheimer's disease
- behavioral studies in mice to show the orally administered compound can delay or rescue memory deficits
- large animal toxicology

## **Applications**

- **CNS therapeutic:**
  - to potentially improve cognition and slow progression of Alzheimer's disease

- to treat other neurological disorders

## Advantages

- **First-in-class molecule** - unique mechanism of action that could both clear the underlying plaque pathology believed to cause brain damage in Alzheimer's disease and provide neuroprotection that enhances cognition
- **Unmet medical need** - Alzheimer's disease has no cure and currently available drugs afford only modest symptomatic benefits

## Publications

- [Benzyl Urea Derivatives for Activating TGF-Beta Signaling](#) (PCT Application WO 2014152869)

## Innovators

- Anton Wyss-Coray
- Mary Tanga
- Hui Zhang
- Jian Luo
- Carol Green
- Laura Beaulieu

## Licensing Contact

### Mona Wan

Senior Licensing Manager for Special Projects

[Email](#)