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TargetBrain

www.targetbrain.eu

Targeting Brain Inflammation
For Improved Functional
Recovery in Acute
Neurodegenerative
Disorders

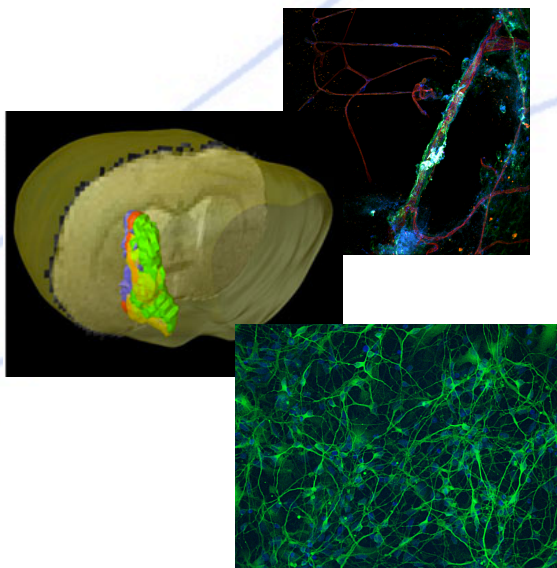


What is TargetBrain?

TargetBrain is a European Large-scale Integrating Project Consortium - funded by EU within 7th Framework Program (FP7) - consisting of 7 academic groups and 2 biotech companies

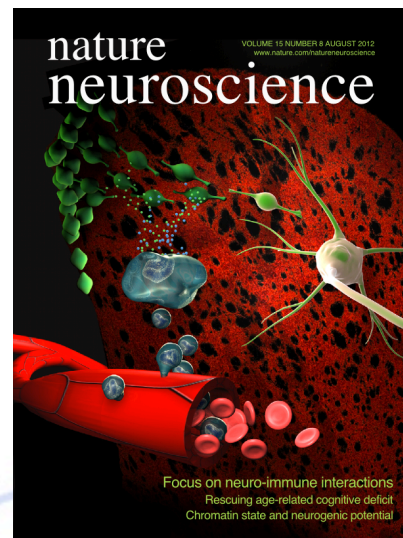
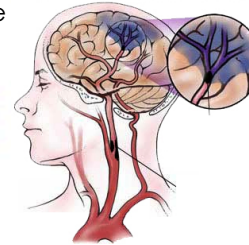
This consortium was awarded an EU grant to directly address the topic "Understanding the role of neuroinflammation in neurodegenerative diseases" and was launched on December 1, 2011.

The work carried out by TargetBrain aims at understanding the cross-talk between neural stem cells (NSCs) and immune cells as a possible key to better brain repair after stroke. It should lead to the development of immune-based therapeutic protocols promoting functional recovery in stroke patients through the enhancement of cellular plasticity.

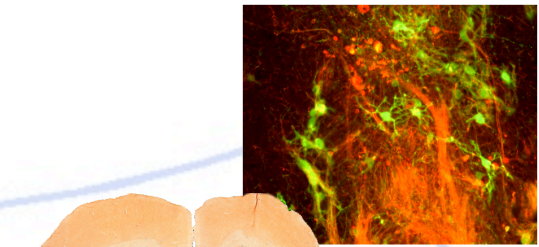


TargetBrain mission:

TargetBrain is working on a paradigm shift in understanding the role of inflammation - detrimental vs. protective - in ischemic stroke-induced brain damage. It was proposed based on accumulated data collected by experts in brain damage on the one hand, and in the role of immune cells in the CNS on the other hand.



Based on joint expertise, the participating groups created the TargetBrain Consortium aimed at united efforts to decipher the mystery related to the intimate mechanisms by which immune cells play an essential role in preventing neurodegenerative conditions associated with stroke. The Consortium will focus its activity on acute brain injury ischemia (stroke) as a model system to elucidate basic principles.



TargetBrain objectives:

Our main objectives are, therefore, the following:

1. To study the temporal and spatial relationship of different types of central nervous system (CNS)-resident and blood-borne infiltrating immune cells in stroke-induced brain damage and during functional recovery.
2. To elucidate the role of the above-mentioned cells - and their secreted molecules - in the sequential control of the local milieu needed for supporting cell survival and regenerative processes, including formation of new neurons from endogenous and transplanted NSCs.
3. To investigate the ability of transplanted NSCs to favorably modulate the inflammatory response to stroke and to affect the characteristics of the lesion and the course of recovery after stroke.
4. To develop an immune-based therapeutic protocol to promote functional recovery in stroke patients by enhancing cellular plasticity.