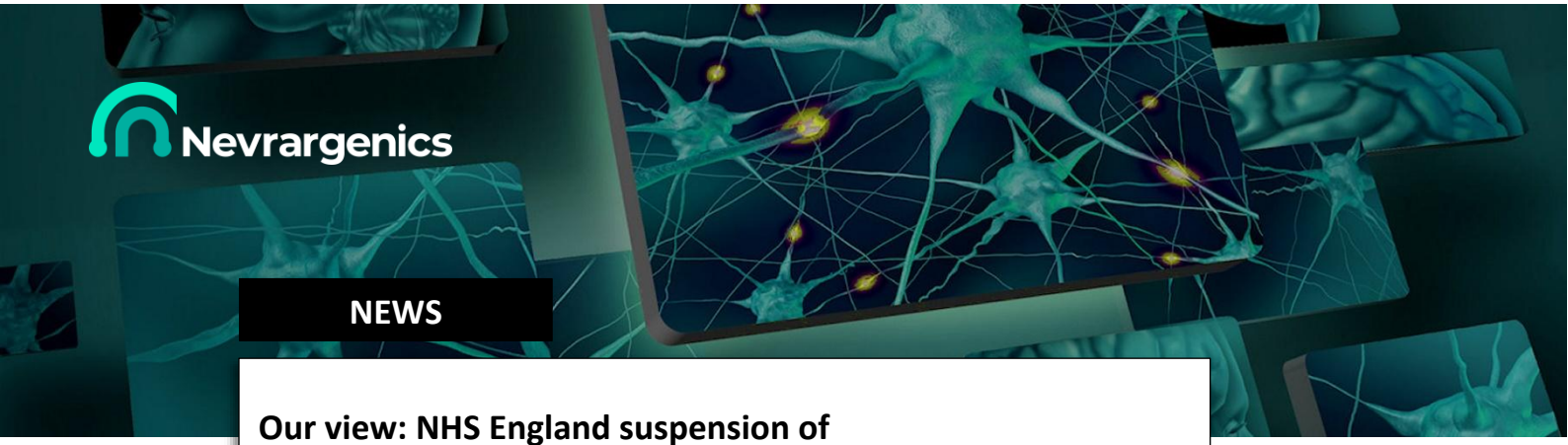

Nevrargenics

NEWS

Our view: NHS England suspension of repurposing programme

Date
21 July 2025

In April 2025, NHS England made a decision to suspend the national medicines repurposing programme. This decision, made public only recently, was made in consideration of the fact that very few repurposed medicines have a strong enough evidence base to support a licence variation and that there are fewer repurposing opportunities than originally envisaged.

You can read the statement here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines-2/medicines-repurposing-programme/

Nevrargenics welcome this announcement as a positive step forward and recognition of the value of other approaches. As a small biotechnology company developing novel drugs, we believe the immense challenge and huge unmet need across all neurodegenerative diseases will only be met by drugs which are specifically designed to tackle them.

For some time, funding bodies, charities and repurposing programmes have sought to support and advance the evaluation of existing medicines for new conditions. This has been perceived as a rapid and cost-effective way of getting new medicines to market given the already-known safety and toxicity profiles of the drugs in question.

However, the lack of a clear development path and the dependency on large pharmaceutical companies to make drugs commercially viable has meant many of these potential solutions lack a long-term future.

Only very rarely have repurposed drugs turned out to be effective and commercially viable, as in the case with mexiletine, a drug developed to treat cardiac arrythmias, which has shown results in treating non-dystrophic myotonia (NDM, a rare muscle disorder). This was successfully repurposed because there was knowledge of the pathogenesis of NDM, which enabled a specific enzyme to be identified as the cause that mexiletine could treat.

In contrast, the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative conditions is poorly understood and multifactorial, meaning these conditions lack a single known critical factor and require a multifaceted response addressing inflammation, synaptic function, oxidative stress and other factors.

We are therefore pleased that this major change in approach has come about, which highlights the necessity of developing novel drugs that may produce the disease-reversing results that patients are looking for. This is not only a view shared by us, as Dame Kate Bingham, Managing Partner of SV Health Investors, has publicly stated that innovative approaches which use new molecular targets, rather than repurposing, will have the greatest impact on Alzheimer's, for example.

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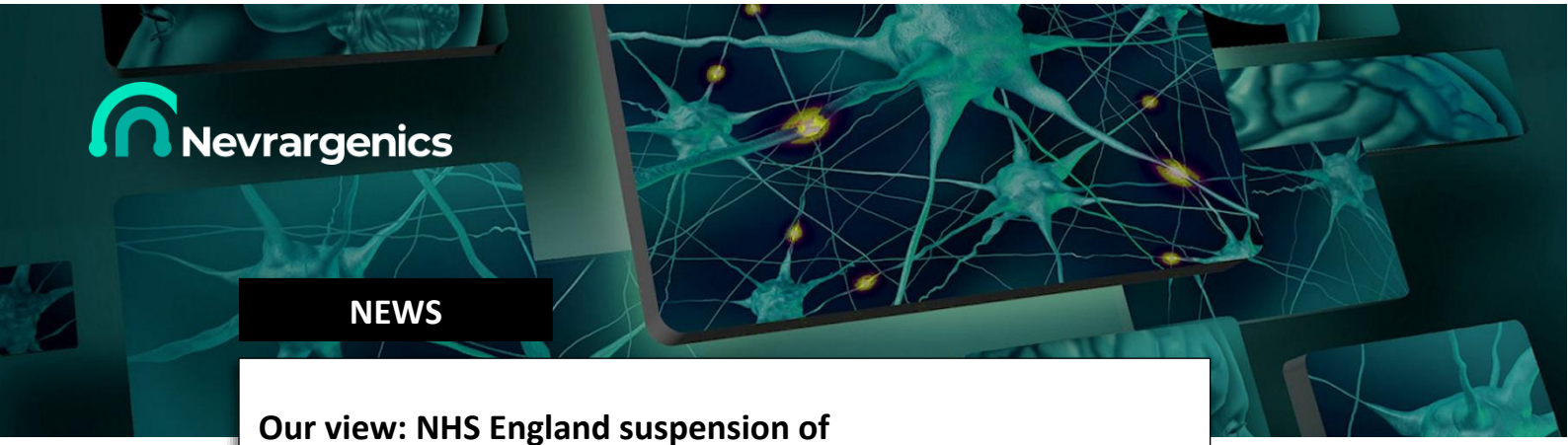
Nevrargenics Ltd is a UK-based biotech company specialising in the discovery and development of novel medicines for the treatment of neurodegenerative disease, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and other neurological and psychiatric diseases.



NEWS

Our view: NHS England suspension of repurposing programme (continued)

Date
21 July 2025

We will continue to work with regulators, policy makers and officials to make the case for high-risk 'moonshot' approach to drug development. In addition, we will continue advocating for the greater use of biomarker driven trials so we can rapidly evaluate new drugs and shorten the initial investigation, reducing patient time on trials and allowing patients to move on to other trials if not successful.

The suspension of this programme does not mean an end to repurposing, but it is an opportune moment to challenge the argument that repurposing offers the best chance of success and re-think how we can rapidly develop effective new drugs for these devastating diseases.

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