

Nevrargenics reports that lead drug candidate NVG0645 provides neuroprotection in a model of Parkinson's disease

Date

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Nevrargenics Ltd, the UK biotech company focusing on developing novel small molecule drugs that modulate the retinoic acid receptors to treat neurodegenerative and other diseases, is pleased to announce that it has presented some of its promising results at the British Pharmacological Society conference, Pharmacology 2021.

Pharmacology 2021 brought together students, researchers, industry, academics, and clinicians from across the globe. This was a very special year for the Society, as 2021 marked 90 years since its foundation, and 75 years since the first edition of the British Journal of Pharmacology.

The company's lead drug candidate, NVG0645, provides functional neuroprotection in a model of Parkinson's disease. The mechanisms behind this protection are currently being explored but are predicted to be multi-factorial based upon previous in-vitro observations.

Notes

Parkinson's disease (PD) is characterised by motor symptoms which result from degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta. There are still no available treatments to protect against ongoing degeneration, or repair damage already present at diagnosis. The pathogenesis of PD is multi-factorial, supporting the need for novel drugs with multiple beneficial actions.

Growing evidence supports a functional role for retinoic acid (RA) signaling in neuronal survival, synaptic plasticity and neuronal repair, making this an attractive target for disease modification in PD. Recently, a group of novel retinoic acid receptor (RAR) modulators with dual genomic and cytoplasmic activity was generated by Nevrgenics' researchers. These RAR modulators (RARMs) exhibit a range of actions in-vitro: reduced transcription of inflammatory chemokines; reduced oxidative stress; increased growth factor transcription; neurite extension (e.g. Khatib et al., 2019). This led us to hypothesise that the lead compound, NVG0645, will provide neuroprotection in a model of PD.

Ref: Khatib, T., Marini, P, Nunna, S et al (2019). Genomic and non-genomic pathways are both crucial for peak induction of neurite outgrowth by retinoids. Cell Commun Signal. 17(1):40.

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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.