Use of Neurotrophic Factors in Treating Memory Loss and Neurodegenerative Disease

Tech ID: 19509 / UC Case 2001-109-0

BACKGROUND

Recently, clinical trials that genetically express the nerve growth factor gene in the brain have shown efficacy in treating patients with Alzheimer's disease.

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

UC San Diego researchers have shown that nervous system growth factors BDNF and NT-4/5 have efficacy in reversing age-related memory impairment and enhance neuronal structure when delivered to the entorhinal cortex. The invention includes the specific administration protocols needed to effectively deliver this factor with minimal side effects.

APPLICATIONS

The method is useful in the therapy of defective, diseased, and damaged neurons in the brain for normal aging or in treating neurodegeneration of the type associated with Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT

The genes have been tested successfully in animal models, and the administration protocols have been tested successfully in human clinical trials.

RELATED MATERIALS


PATENT STATUS

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