

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION TO SCI : NATURAL COURSE & THERAPEUTIC LEADS	11
1.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION	
SPINAL CORD INJURY	12
1.2 SCI ENVIRONMENT	
PATHO-PHYSIOLOGY OF SPINAL CORD INJURIES	13
1.2.1 COURSE OF SPINAL CORD INJURIES	13
1.2.2 ACUTE AND SUBACUTE TOXICITY	14
1.2.3 ASTROGLIAL SCAR FORMATION	15
1.2.4 FIBROTIC SCAR FORMATION	17
1.2.5 SPONTANEOUS PLASTICITY AND RECOVERY	18
1.3 RECRUITING SPARED CIRCUITS	19
1.3.1 PHARMACOLOGICAL MODULATION OF SPINAL SUBSTRATES	19
1.3.2 MOTOR NEUROPROSTHETICS	20
1.4 CURRENT VIEWS ABOUT AXON REGENERATION	22
1.4.1 AXON REGENERATION : INHIBITING THE INHIBITORS	23
1.4.2 AXON REGENERATION : INDUCING AXON REGROWTH	26
1.5 CELL REPLACEMENT	
FACILITATING MATRIX AND RELAYS	30
1.5.1 RELAY GRAFTS : PROMOTING REORGANIZATION	30
1.5.2 SUPPORT GRAFTS : PROMOTING ENDOGENOUS REGENERATION	31
1.6 COMBINING PARADIGMS TO RESTORE INTEGRITY	32
2 PROPRIOSPINAL AXON REGENERATION	35
2.1 ABSTRACT	36
2.2 INTRODUCTION	
LESION ENVIRONMENT AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURY	37
2.3 RESULTS	
PROPRIOSPINAL REGENERATION ACROSS COMPLETE SCI	38
2.3.1 A SUPPORTIVE MATRIX, AXON GUIDANCE & GROWTH INDUCTION ARE SUFFICIENT FOR REGROWTH	38
2.3.2 A SUPPORTIVE MATRIX, AXON GUIDANCE & GROWTH INDUCTION ARE REQUIRED FOR REGROWTH	38
2.3.3 INDUCING A SUPPORTIVE EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX WITHIN THE SCI	40
2.3.4 CHEMOATTRACTIVE GDNF GUIDES REGENERATING AXONS ACROSS THE LESION	41
2.3.5 REGENERATED PROPRIOSPINAL AXONS CONDUCT ACTION POTENTIALS	41
2.3.6 NEUROPROSTHETICS AND PROPRIOSPINAL REGENERATION FAILS TO INDUCE FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY	44
2.4 DISCUSSION	
TRACT SPECIFIC GROWTH PROGRAMS AND GUIDANCE	46
2.5 MATERIALS AND METHODS	48
2.5.1 ANIMALS	48
2.5.2 SURGICAL PROCEDURES	48
2.5.3 ADENO-ASSOCIATED VIRUSES (AAVs)	49
2.5.4 HYDROGEL DEPOTS WITH GROWTH FACTORS & FUNCTION-BLOCKING ANTIBODIES	49
2.5.5 HINDLIMB LOCOMOTOR EVALUATION & ANIMAL INCLUSION CRITERIA	49
2.5.6 HISTOLOGY & IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY	50

2.5.7	AXON QUANTIFICATION	50
2.5.8	QUANTIFICATION OF IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICALLY STAINED AREAS	50
2.5.9	QUANTIFICATION OF ASTROCYTE PROLIFERATION & DENSITY	50
2.5.10	DOT BLOT	51
2.5.11	ISOLATION & SEQUENCING OF RNA FROM ASTROCYTES AND NON-ASTROCYTE CELLS	51
2.5.12	RAT ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY	51
2.5.13	RAT NEUROREHABILITATION PROCEDURES	52
2.5.14	BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS	52
2.5.15	STATISTICS, POWER CALCULATIONS, GROUP SIZES & REPRODUCIBILITY	52
3	THALAMOCORTICAL NEUROMODULATION	53
3.1	ABSTRACT	54
3.2	INTRODUCTION	
	CLOSING THE LOOP	55
3.3	RESULTS	
	THALAMOCORTICAL RECRUITMENT AFTER COMPLETE SCI	56
3.3.1	CRUSH SCI INTERRUPTS PERIPHERAL FEEDBACK TO THE MOTOR CORTEX	56
3.3.2	LUMBOSACRAL CIRCUITS PROVIDE DIRECT FEEDBACK TO THE ROSTRAL THALAMUS	56
3.3.3	THALAMO-CORTICAL PROJECTIONS CAN BE RECRUITED AFTER COMPLETE CRUSH SCI	58
3.3.4	CHRONIC NEUROMODULATION OF THALAMO-CORTICAL PROJECTIONS	58
3.3.5	RESTORING SOMATOSENSORY FEEDBACK AFTER COMPLETE SCI	60
3.4	DISCUSSION	
	SPECIFIC THALAMOCORTICAL FEEDBACK	63
3.5	MATERIALS AND METHODS	66
3.5.1	ANIMALS	66
3.5.2	ADMINISTERED VIRUSES	66
3.5.3	SURGICAL PROCEDURES	66
3.5.4	ACUTE ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY	67
3.5.5	HISTOLOGY & IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY	68
3.5.6	CLARITY AND 3D-IMAGE ACQUISITION	68
3.5.7	NEUROREHABILITATION PROCEDURE	68
3.5.8	BEHAVIORAL & NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS	68
4	RETICULOSPINAL REORGANIZATION	71
4.1	ABSTRACT	72
4.2	INTRODUCTION	
	REINFORCING BRAINSTEM CONTROL ACROSS COMPLETE SCIS	73
4.3	RESULTS	
	SIGNALING DIFFERS BETWEEN SPROUTING AND AXON REGROWTH REGENERATION	75
4.3.1	LOW RETICULOSPINAL RESPONSE TO mTOR SIGNALING	75
4.3.2	DREADD-INDUCED cAMP ELEVATION FAILS TO INDUCE RETICULOSPINAL AXON REGROWTH	75
4.3.3	CHRONIC ACTIVITY FAILS TO INDUCE RETICULOSPINAL AXON REGROWTH	77
4.3.4	CHRONIC ACTIVITY RESCUES RETICULOSPINAL PROJECTIONS ABOVE THE LESION	77
4.4	DISCUSSION	
	DISSOCIATED PATHWAYS FOR SPROUTING AND AXON REGROWTH	80
4.5	MATERIALS AND METHODS	83
4.5.1	ANIMALS	83
4.5.2	ADMINISTERED MOLECULES AND VIRUSES	83
4.5.3	SURGERIES	83
4.5.4	BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS	84
4.5.5	CHRONIC OPTOGENETIC STIMULATION	84
4.5.6	IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AND HISTOLOGY	85
5	AN ADULT SOURCE FOR CELL REPLACEMENT	87
5.1	ABSTRACT	88
5.2	INTRODUCTION	
	ADULT SOURCES OF NEURAL PROGENITOR CELLS	89

5.3	RESULTS	
	POOR INTEGRITY OF FT-DERIVED CELL GRAFTS <i>IN VIVO</i>	90
5.3.1	NEURAL TISSUE ARISES FROM ADULT RODENT FILUM TERMINALE	90
5.3.2	FT-DERIVED GRAFTS FAIL TO RESTORE SCI SITE INTEGRITY	91
5.4	DISCUSSION	
	INTEGRATING EXOGENOUS CELLS IN A LESION ENVIRONMENT	94
5.5	MATERIALS AND METHODS	97
5.5.1	ANIMALS	97
5.5.2	SURGERIES	97
5.5.3	IN VITRO DEVELOPMENT OF FILUM TERMINALE-DERIVED NEURAL TISSUE	97
5.5.4	GRAFT SUSPENSION	98
5.5.5	HYDROGEL DEPOT WITH GROWTH FACTORS	98
5.5.6	<i>EX VITRO</i> IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AND HISTOLOGY	98
5.5.7	<i>EX VIVO</i> IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AND HISTOLOGY	98
6	DISCUSSION : CIRCUIT REORGANIZATION	99
6.1	BUILDING BRIDGES	
	FACILITATING GROWTH IN SPITE OF INHIBITIONS	100
6.2	REORGANIZING INPUTS AFTER COMPLETE SCI	100
6.2.1	DEFINING RELEVANT INPUTS AND TARGETS	100
6.2.2	INTEGRATING NEURONAL CELL GRAFTS	101
6.2.3	INTEGRATING REGENERATED AXONS	101
6.2.4	RECRUITING MUSCLE SYNERGIES VIA REGENERATED AXONS	102
6.3	CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE	102
6.4	CONCLUSION	
	FINAL WORDS	103