

Public Lecture by Dr. Mark Tuszynski
Nerve Growth Factor Gene Therapy for Alzheimer's Disease
November 21, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Garren Auditorium, Basic Science Building
Sponsored by the Sam & Rose Stein Institute for Research on Aging, UCSD

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Nerve growth factor (NGF) is a nervous system growth factor that can prevent the death of certain types of cells in the brain. Gene therapy is a potential means of delivering this growth factor to the brain in an attempt to, for the first time, *prevent* cell loss in people with Alzheimer's disease. In animal experiments, we have found that nerve growth factor gene therapy can both prevent cell loss in the brain and reverse spontaneous declines in cell function that occur with aging. We are currently conducting an early phase ("Phase I") trial of growth factor gene therapy in Alzheimer's disease in an attempt to determine whether this will ultimately be a useful treatment for Alzheimer's disease.