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Through a combination of cellular, molecular and pharmacological strategic technologies our laboratory is accelerating drug discovery and optimization towards licensing in the following topics: (i) Development of a novel technology based on human umbilical cord blood neural stem cell for cell therapy in stroke; (ii) Optimization of anti-metastatic peptidomimetic lead compounds based on specific integrin-receptor antagonism; (iii) Development of a diagnostic kit based on nerve growth factor receptor, TrkA, activity for carcinoma staging and prognosis; (iv) Characterization of nerve growth factor receptors in the cardiovascular system in comparison to nervous system towards research and development of novel, tissue specific and potent drugs; (v) Establishment and validation of in vitro pharmacological models to study neuronal proliferation and differentiation, neuroprotection and angiogenesis; (vi) Developments of scaffolds and technologies based on nerve growth factor for neural engineering.