

# Helping the Brain to Help Itself

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Support cells in the brain called astroglia can be turned into functioning neurons, according to a study in this week's [Public Library of Science Biology](#) [1]. Researchers found that they could transform the cells into two different classes of neurons, and that the neurons could form connections with one another in a dish. Although the research is at an early stage, the finding suggests that scientists could someday recruit existing cells in the brain to repair the brain and spinal cord after a stroke, injury, or neurodegenerative disease.

[SOURCE](#) [2]

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[http://www.mdtmag.com/news/2010/05/helping-brain-help-itself?qt-recent\\_content=0](http://www.mdtmag.com/news/2010/05/helping-brain-help-itself?qt-recent_content=0)

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.plosbiology.org/>

[2] <http://feeds.technologyreview.com/click.phdo?i=d477cc410c2f3a04cb00c9137dc2da34>