

Sphingomyelin is the main phospholipid in *Trypanosoma brucei*, the causative agent of African sleeping sickness... Gene Knockout studies in the bloodstream form of the parasite indicate that neutral sphingomyelinase is essential for growth and survival... TbnSMase is therefore genetically validated as a drug target against African trypanosomes...

[Young, S.A. and Smith, T.K. (2010) The essential neutral sphingomyelinase is involved in the trafficking of the variant surface glycoprotein in the bloodstream form of *Trypanosoma brucei*. *Molecular microbiology*, v.76, no. 6]

