This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Ischemia; reperfusion injury	ADAM metallopeptidase with thrombospondin type 1 motif 13 (ADAMTS13); von Willebrand factor (VWF)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that ADAMTS13 could help prevent or treat stroke-related ischemia or reperfusion injury. ADAMTS13 is a negative regulator of VWF, levels of which are higher in stroke patients. In a mouse model of ischemic stroke, <i>Adamts13</i> knockout led to larger infarct volumes than those in wild-type controls. In wild-type mice, recombinant ADAMTS13 delivered after ischemia but before reperfusion reduced infarct volumes and helped improve performance in a sensorimotor test compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing ADAMTS13 treatment in other preclinical models of stroke.</p> <p>Archemix Corp.'s ARC1779, an antiplatelet aptamer inhibiting VWF, is in Phase IIb testing to treat thrombotic microangiopathies (TMA), Phase IIa testing to prevent blood clots in patients undergoing carotid endarterectomy (CEA) and has completed Phase II testing to treat thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP).</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1277 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhao, B.-Q. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-03-213264 Contact: Denisa D. Wagner, Immune Disease Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: wagner@idi.harvard.edu</p>