This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal disease	Arginine vasopressin 2 receptor (AVPR2; V2R); prostaglandin E ₂ receptor EP4 subtype (prostanoid EP4 receptor; PTGER4)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that agonizing PTGER4 could help treat X-linked nephrogenic diabetes insipidus (NDI). In adult mice, knockout of renal <i>Avpr2</i> led to NDI symptoms, such as increased water intake and excretion of hypotonic urine, and to altered renal morphology compared with what was seen in wild-type controls. A PTGER4 agonist reversed the symptoms compared with no treatment. Next steps include ongoing studies with the AVPR2-deficient mice to find compounds that could treat X-linked NDI.</p> <p>BGC20-1531, a PTGER4 antagonist from partners BTG plc and Asterand plc, is in Phase II testing to treat migraine.</p> <p>Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s PTGER4 antagonist, ONO-AE3-208, is in preclinical testing for undisclosed indications.</p> <p>SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1325 Published online Sept. 3, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Li, J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 1, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39680</p> <p>Contact: Jürgen Wess, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: jwess@helix.nih.gov</p>