This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial fibrosis	Secreted frizzled-related protein 2 (SFRP2)	Studies in mice suggest that antagonizing SFRP2 could be useful for preventing fibrosis following myocardial infarction (MI). SFRP2 increases bone morphogenetic protein 1 (BMP1; PCP) activity, leading to collagen deposition and fibrosis in damaged cardiac tissue. Following MI, mice lacking Sfrp2 had less fibrosis and better cardiac function than wild-type mice. Next steps include identifying small molecule inhibitors of SFRP2.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Kobayashi, K. <i>et al. Nat. Cell Biol.</i> ; published online Dec. 15, 2008; doi:10.1038/ncb1811 Contact: Thomas Sato, Cornell University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: island1005@aol.com
<i>SciBX</i> 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.14 Published online Jan. 8, 2009				