This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular; inflammation	Epoxide hydrolase 2 (EPHX2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified benzamide-based compounds that could help treat cardiovascular disease. High-throughout screening identified <i>N</i>-(3,3-diphenyl-propyl)-nicotinamide as having low nanomolar activity against human and murine EPHX2. Further optimization of the compound led to a benzamide-based derivative, 4-cyano-<i>N</i>-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propyl]-benzamide, that had low nanomolar activity against EPHX2, an enzyme involved in cardiovascular disease. Next steps could include testing the inhibitor in animal models of cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>Arete Therapeutics Inc.'s EPHX2 inhibitor, AR9281, is in Phase II testing to treat mild to moderate hypertension and impaired glucose tolerance.</p> <p>SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1407 Published online Sept. 24, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Eldrup, A. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 11, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9005302</p> <p>Contact: Anne B. Eldrup, Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, Ridgefield, Conn. e-mail: anne.eldrup@boehringer-ingelheim.com</p>