This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Coronary artery disease (CAD)	Neuropeptide Y (NPY); NPY receptor Y1 (NPY1R)	<p>A human gene variant study and mouse experiments suggest that NPY and its receptors could be targeted to treat CAD. Specific NPY gene variants in 946 patients with early-onset familial CAD correlated with higher serum levels of NPY and an earlier age of disease onset. In a mouse model of carotid atherosclerosis, an NPY1R antagonist lowered disease severity compared with that seen in mock-treated controls. Next steps include investigating the effect of inhibiting other NPY receptors, testing NPY1R inhibitors in larger animal models and exploring the use of NPY1R inhibitors as an adjunct to treat coronary artery stent restenosis. Shionogi & Co. Ltd. and 7TM Pharma A/S have Phase II clinical trials of antagonists of other NPY receptors but none for NPY1R or to treat CAD.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.142 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Shah, S.H. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online Jan. 2, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000318</p> <p>Contact: Svati H. Shah, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. e-mail: svati.shah@duke.edu</p>