This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Thrombosis	Protein kinase Ca (PRKCA; PKCα)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that blocking PKCα could potentially help prevent thrombosis. <i>In vitro</i>, Pkcα-negative mouse platelets showed less collagen-related peptide-induced and thrombin-induced granule secretion and less overall platelet aggregation than that seen in wild-type controls. Also, genetic knockout of Pkcα in mice with laser-induced endothelial injury delayed thrombus formation and decreased platelet accumulation compared with what was seen in injured wild-type mice. Next steps include determining the PKCα crystal structure and detecting binding partners that interfere with PKCα.</p> <p>PharmaGap Inc. has PhGa1, a PKCα inhibitor, in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.143 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing; the University of Bristol is interested in potential partners for drug development	<p>Konopatskaya, O. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI34665</p> <p>Contact: Alastair W. Poole, University of Bristol, Bristol, U.K. e-mail: a.poole@bris.ac.uk</p>