This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Arterial thrombosis; venous thromboembolism (VTE)	Factor XII; Factor XI; kallikrein	<p>Studies in human plasma and in rodents suggest that a compound derived from tick spit could help prevent arterial thrombosis and VTE. In human plasma, a recombinant variant of Ir-CPI (<i>Ixodes ricinus</i> contact phase inhibitor) blocked activation of Factor XII, Factor XI and kallikrein and inhibited the coagulation cascade. In murine models of thrombosis, Ir-CPI reduced the size and density of blood clots compared with vehicle. Future work includes conducting preclinical toxicology studies and designing clinical trials.</p> <p>Astellas Pharma Inc's Factor Xa inhibitor YM150 is in Phase III testing to prevent VTE in patients undergoing surgery or with a history of the indication. sanofi-aventis Group's AVE5026, a dual inhibitor of thrombin (Factor IIa) and Factor Xa, is in Phase III testing to prevent VTE in individuals requiring hip or knee replacement, patients undergoing abdominal surgery or patients receiving chemotherapy. Schering-Plough Corp's thrombin receptor antagonist (formerly SCH 530348) is in Phase III testing to prevent arterial thrombosis in patients with prior ischemic stroke.</p> <p>SciBX 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1504 Published online Oct. 15, 2009</p>	Patented by the Free University of Brussels; licensed to Bioxodes and available for partnering	<p>Decrem, Y. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 5, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20091007</p> <p>Contact: Edmond Godfroid, Free University of Brussels, Montigny-Le-Tilleul, Belgium e-mail: Edmond.Godfroid@ulb.ac.be</p>