This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Ischemia; reperfusion injury	von Willebrand factor (vWF); glycoprotein Ib α -polypeptide (GP1BA; GP1B α)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting the GPB1 α -vWF pathway could be useful for treating ischemic stroke. Following cerebral artery occlusion, mice lacking vWF had significantly smaller infarctions and less severe neurological deficits than wild-type mice ($p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$, respectively). Reconstitution of plasma vWF restored susceptibility to stroke in vWF ^{-/-} mice. Next steps include developing compounds that specifically block the interaction between vWF and GP1B α . There are at least four compounds targeting vWF in development stages ranging from preclinical to Phase II for cardiovascular indications.	GP1B α and vWF patented by the University of Wuerzburg as therapeutic targets to prevent and treat ischemic stroke; unlicensed	Kleinschnitz, C. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online Jan. 30, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-09-180695 Contact: Christoph Kleinschnitz, University of Wuerzburg, Wuerzburg, Germany e-mail: christoph.kleinschnitz@mail.uni-wuerzburg.de
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