This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Idiopathic ventricular fibrillation	Dipeptidyl peptidase-6 (DPP6; DPP-6)	Genetic analysis identified a chromosomal locus that could be a useful biomarker for predicting susceptibility to idiopathic ventricular fibrillation. Analysis of Dutch families in which multiple individuals died suddenly of idiopathic ventricular fibrillation or were successfully resuscitated at a young age identified a conserved variant of <i>DPP6</i> that was associated with the condition. <i>DPP6</i> encodes a component of the transient outward current channel in the heart. In 84 carriers of the variant who had idiopathic ventricular fibrillation, 50% experienced sudden cardiac death before the age of 58. The marker is already being used in the Netherlands as a diagnostic for idiopathic ventricular fibrillation. Next steps include validating the marker in other ethnic populations.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Alders, M. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i> ; published online March 11, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.02.009 Contact: A.M. Wilde, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: a.a.wilde@amc.uva.nl
<i>SciBX</i> 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.449 Published online March 19, 2009				