This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Arrestin β 1 (ARRB1)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that inhibiting ARRB1 could prevent hyperaldosteronism to improve recovery from MI. High levels of aldosterone can contribute to heart failure after MI. Adrenocortical zona glomerulosa cells expressing an <i>ARRB1</i> mutant lacked angiotensin II (ANGII)-induced aldosterone production, whereas cells expressing wild-type <i>ARRB1</i> had higher ANGII-induced aldosterone production. Rats with adrenal gland-specific <i>Arbb1</i> expression had higher plasma aldosterone levels than rats with adrenal gland-specific control protein expression. Next steps include testing inhibitors of ARRB1 in models of chronic heart failure.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Lymperopoulos, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811706106 Contact: Walter J. Koch, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: walter.koch@jefferson.edu Contact: Anastasios Lymperopoulos, same affiliation as above e-mail: anastasios.lymperopoulos@jefferson.edu
SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.493 Published online March 26, 2009				