This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Arterial thrombosis	Matrix metalloproteinase 1 (MMP1); protease- activated receptor 1 (PAR1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that inhibitors of the MMP1-PAR1 pathway could help prevent arterial thrombosis. Human platelets stimulated with collagen showed activated MMP1, which cleaved PAR1 and caused platelet aggregation. In a guinea pig model of carotid artery injury, inhibition of PAR1 or MMP1 increased mean occlusion time by about 50%. The next steps include lead optimization studies to create a clinical candidate.</p> <p>At least ten companies have MMP inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for various conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.658 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	U.S. patents filed covering work; available for licensing	<p>Trivedi, V. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online April 16, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.02.018</p> <p>Contact: Athan Kuliopulos, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: athan.kuliopulos@tufts.edu</p>