This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular disease	Renin (REN)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies identified a 3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonene derivative with REN inhibitory activity that could help treat cardiovascular diseases. The compound inhibited REN with an IC_{50} of 0.20 nM in buffer and 19 nM in plasma. In a rat model of hypertension, a 10 mg/kg dose of the compound lowered blood pressure by about 30 mmHg. Next steps could include evaluating the safety and efficacy of the compound in other animal models of cardiovascular disease. Aliskiren, a REN inhibitor from Novartis AG, is marketed in the U.S. as Tekturna and in the EU as Rasilez to treat hypertension.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.659 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bezencon, O. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 9, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900022f</p> <p>Contact: Olivier Bezencon, Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Allschwil, Switzerland e-mail: olivier.bezencon@actelion.com</p>