This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis; thrombosis	Apolipoprotein E (APOE); DNA-damage- inducible transcript 3 (DDIT3; CHOP10; CHOP; GADD153); low- density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting DDIT3 could be useful for preventing acute thrombosis caused by atherosclerotic plaques. In <i>Ddit3</i> ^{-/-} and <i>ApoE</i> ^{-/-} mice, atherosclerotic lesions associated with plaque formation had significantly smaller necrotic areas than <i>Ddit3</i> ^{+/+} and <i>ApoE</i> ^{-/-} controls (<i>p</i> <0.01). Atherosclerotic lesions in the <i>Ddit3</i> -deficient mice also showed significantly less apoptosis of macrophages than lesions in <i>Ddit3</i> ^{+/+} mice (<i>p</i> <0.05). Similar results were seen in <i>Ddit3</i> ⁻ and <i>Ldlr</i> -deficient hyperlipidemic mice. Next steps include developing DDIT3 inhibitors and evaluating them in preclinical atherosclerosis models.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Thorp, E. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i> ; published online May 5, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2009.03.003 Contact: Ira Tabas, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: iat1@columbia.edu
SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.789 Published online May 14, 2009				