This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular disease	α , Actin 2, smooth muscle, aorta (ACTA2)	Genetic studies suggest that a heterozygous <i>ACTA2</i> mutation could be a risk factor for several occlusive vascular diseases. In 127 patients with <i>ACTA2</i> mutations, 76 subjects developed thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections, 26 developed premature onset coronary artery disease (CAD) and 15 had premature ischemic strokes, including Moyamoya disease. In explanted smooth muscle cells and myofibroblasts from patients with the mutation, proliferation of vascular cells was higher than that seen in controls. Next steps include performing a longitudinal study on an <i>ACTA2</i> mutation cohort and developing a diagnostic for <i>ACTA2</i> mutations.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Guo, D. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i> ; published online April 30, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.04.007 Contact: Dianna M. Milewicz, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Texas e-mail: dianna.m.milewicz@uth.tmc.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.790 Published online May 14, 2009				