This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	Phosphoinositide-dependent protein kinase 1 (PDPK1; PDK1)	Studies in mice suggest that upregulating cardiac PDPK1 could help treat heart failure. In mice, cardiac-specific knockout of Pdpk1 led to increased cardiomyocyte apoptosis, impaired adrenergic receptor β 1 (Adrb1) responsiveness and lethal cardiac dysfunction compared with what was seen in wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying PDPK1-activating compounds that protect cardiomyocytes and stimulate adrenergic receptors.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Ito, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 4, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900064106 Contact: Issei Komuro, Chiba University Graduate School of Medicine, Chiba, Japan e-mail: komuro-tky@umin.ac.jp
SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.791 Published online May 14, 2009				