This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 5 (CCL5; RANTES); platelet factor 4 (PF4; CXCL4)	<p>A mouse study suggests that interfering with CCL5-PF4 complexes could potentially treat or prevent atherosclerosis. In a mouse model of diet-induced atherosclerosis, knockout of <i>Ccl5</i> or <i>Pf4</i> led to fewer atherosclerotic lesions in the aorta compared with that seen in control mice. In the same mouse model, intraperitoneal administration of MKEY, a peptide designed to interfere with Ccl5-Pf4 heterodimers, significantly decreased lesions compared with what was seen using a control peptide ($p < 0.05$). Carolus Therapeutics Inc. is studying the peptide in additional preclinical models of cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular inflammatory disease to validate the mechanism and assess safety.</p> <p>MLN1202, a humanized mAb that targets chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 2 (CCR2) from Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat atherosclerosis.</p> <p>CCX140, a CCR2 antagonist from ChemoCentryx Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat vascular restenosis and multiple sclerosis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.93 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Peptide antagonist patented and exclusively licensed to Carolus Therapeutics	<p>Koenen, R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 4, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1898</p> <p>Contact: Christian Weber, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany e-mail: cweber@ukaachen.de</p>