This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Angiotensin I converting enzyme 2 (ACE2)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that increasing ACE2 levels could help treat atherosclerosis. In aortic segments from atherosclerotic rabbits, adenovirus-mediated overexpression of Ace2 decreased markers of atherosclerosis and increased endothelial function compared with those in control transduced or nontransduced aortic segments. Next steps include developing an approach to increase ACE2 expression or deliver the protein directly to cardiovascular tissue. SciBX 3(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1036 Published online Sept. 2, 2010	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Zhang, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 23, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1001253107 Contact: Yihai Cao, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: yihai.cao@mtc.ki.se Contact: Yun Zhang, Shandong University, Jinan, Shandong, China e-mail: zhangyun@sdu.edu.cn Contact: Bo Dong, same affiliation as above e-mail: dongbo1@medmail.com.cn