This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis; coronary artery disease (CAD)	Sortilin 1 (SORT1)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting SORT1 could help reduce cholesterol to prevent cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. In mice with excessive low-density lipoprotein (LDL), <i>Sort1</i> deficiency reduced cholesterol and atherosclerotic lesion formation in the aorta compared with that in wild-type controls. Next steps include evaluating the effects of SORT1 inhibition on atherosclerotic plaques and atherosclerosis-associated mortality in transgenic mouse models. SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1091 Published online Sept. 16, 2010	Patent application filed; H. Lundbeck A/S has rights from its acquisition of NeuronIcon APS; licensing status undisclosed	Kjolby, M. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Sept. 7, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2010.08.006 Contact: Anders Nykjaer, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark e-mail: an@biokemi.au.dk Contact: Thomas E. Willnow, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany e-mail: willnow@mdc-berlin.de