This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiomyopathy	Angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AGTR1); transforming growth factor- β (TGFB; TGF β)	Studies in mice suggest inhibiting AGTR1 or TGFB could help prevent hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. In a mouse model of the condition, pretreatment with either the AGTR1 inhibitor losartan or a TGFB-blocking antibody attenuated cardiac fibrosis and diminished non-myocyte proliferation compared with a control antibody or no treatment. Next steps include designing a pilot study to examine the effect of losartan on individuals predisposed to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Cozaar losartan is marketed by Merck & Co. Inc. to treat hypertension. At least nine other companies have AGTR1 inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat cardiovascular indications. SciBX 3(36)(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1092 Published online Sept. 16, 2010	Unpatented; licensing status unavailable	Teekakirikul, P. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 1, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42028 Contact: Jonathan G. Seidman, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: seidman@genetics.med.harvard.edu