This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Coronary artery disease (CAD)	Lipoprotein (a) (LPA)	A genomewide association study identified SNPs in <i>LPA</i> that could help predict susceptibility to CAD. An analysis of a cohort from the Precocious Coronary Artery Disease (PROCARDIS) consortium identified 16 SNPs in <i>LPA</i> that were associated with both greater plasma LPA levels and greater risk for CAD ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$). The two SNPs with strongest associations, rs3798220 and rs10355872, together accounted for about 36% of the variation in plasma LPA levels. Next steps include evaluating the potential benefits of reducing plasma LPA levels in patients.	Work unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Clarke, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>N. Engl. J. Med.</i> ; published online Dec. 23, 2009; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0902604 Contact: Martin Farrall, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: martin.farrall@cardiov.ox.ac.uk Contact: Hugh Watkins, same affiliation as above e-mail: hugh.watkins@cardiov.ox.ac.uk
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