This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Ischemia; reperfusion injury	Apelin (APLN)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that APLN could help reduce side effects associated with angiogenic therapies and more effectively treat ischemia. Leaky blood vessels are a major problem associated with many angiogenic therapies. In a mouse model of hind limb ischemia, gene transfer of <i>Apln</i> and <i>Vegf</i> reduced necrosis more effectively than transfer of either gene alone. Moreover, <i>Apln</i> and <i>Vegf</i> gene transfer prevented tissue edema and vessel leakiness caused by <i>Vegf</i> transfer alone, suggesting that <i>Apln</i> could alleviate the side effects of angiogenesis therapies. Next steps include developing a scaffold for injection of the APLN protein for therapeutic use.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.307 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Kidoya, H. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Feb. 25, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-07-232306</p> <p>Contact: Nobuyuki Takakura, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: ntakaku@biken.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>