This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	Purinergic receptor P2X ligand-gated ion channel 4 (P2RX4; P2X4)	A study in mice identified phosphonate-based activators of P2X4 that could help treat heart failure. In a mouse model of heart failure, two phosphonate-based P2X4 activators improved heart function compared with vehicle. Next steps include evaluating the bioavailability and toxicity of the phosphonate compounds and testing them in a large animal model of heart failure.	Multiple patents filed; available for licensing from the University of Connecticut	Kumar, T.S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 1, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm9018542 Contact: Kenneth A. Jacobson, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: kajacobs@helix.nih.gov
SciBX 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.343 Published online March 18, 2010				