This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular	Periostin (POSTN)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting periostin could help treat valvular heart disease (VHD). In the valves of people with atherosclerotic and rheumatic VHD, periostin was upregulated in cells infiltrating the atherosclerotic lesions compared with that in healthy valves. In mice on a high-fat diet, periostin knockout did not induce the aortic valve thickening and annular fibrosis seen in wild-type controls. Next steps could include testing the therapeutic potential of inhibiting periostin in animal models of VHD.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Hakuno, D. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online June 14, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI40973 Contact: Keiichi Fukuda, Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: kfukuda@sc.itc.keio.ac.jp
SciBX 3(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.791 Published online July 1, 2010				