This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Sortilin 1 (SORT1)	Human and mouse studies suggest that increasing SORT1 expression in the liver may help lower plasma lipid levels and prevent MI. Genomewide association studies identified a SNP that was associated with decreased low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels and higher Sort1 expression. In mice, adenoviral-mediated Sort1 overexpression in the liver significantly reduced plasma cholesterol compared with that seen using a nonexpressing control vector ($p=4\times 10^{-5}$). Next steps include additional mechanistic studies in mice and cultured hepatocytes.	Findings unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	Musunuru, K. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09266 Contact: Daniel J. Rader, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: rader@mail.med.upenn.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 3(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.986 Published online Aug. 19, 2010				