This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Not applicable	<p>Mouse studies suggest that decreasing production of trimethylamine <i>N</i>-oxide (TMAO) by suppressing intestinal microflora could help treat or prevent cardiovascular disease. In human plasma samples, high levels of the phosphatidylcholine metabolites choline, TMAO and betaine were associated with risk of cardiovascular disease. In mice prone to atherosclerosis, dietary supplementation with choline or TMAO increased atherosclerosis, whereas using antibiotics to suppress intestinal microflora that produce precursors of TMAO inhibited development of atherosclerosis. Next steps include developing a serum diagnostic based on the three phosphatidylcholine metabolites.</p> <p>SciBX 4(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.457 Published online April 21, 2011</p>	Findings patented; available for licensing from the Cleveland Clinic	<p>Wang, Z. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online April 6, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09922 Contact: Stanley L. Hazen, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: hazens@ccf.org</p>