This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Protein kinase C (PKC)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that implanted mesenchymal stem cells that have been treated with a PKC activator could help treat MI. In isolated mesenchymal stem cells, the PKC activator phorbol myristate acetate induced expression of cardiogenic markers. In rats with infarcted hearts, implantation of the treated cells improved cardiac remodeling and decreased infarct size compared with implantation of untreated mesenchymal stem cells. The treated cells also reduced arrhythmias and prevented sudden death compared with untreated cells. Next steps could include additional studies on phorbol myristate acetate-induced conversion of mesenchymal stem cells.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Song, H. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 20, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1015873107 Contact: Yangsoo Jang, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: jangys1212@yuhs.ac Contact: Sung-Hou Kim, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: shkim@cchem.berkeley.edu
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