This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Reticulon 4 (RTN4; NOGO-A; NOGO; NOGO-B)	<p>Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest inhibiting NOGO-B could help treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). In plasma serum and pulmonary artery smooth muscle cells from patients with PAH, NOGO-B levels were higher than those in healthy controls. In a mouse model of hypoxia-induced PAH, Nogo-B-deficient mice did not develop pulmonary arterial hypertension, right ventricular hypertrophy or other PAH symptoms, whereas wild-type control mice did. Ongoing work includes testing compounds that block activation of NOGO-B.</p> <p>1223249, a humanized mAb against NOGO from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase I testing to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).</p> <p>ATI355, a mAb that inhibits NOGO from Novartis AG, is in Phase I testing to treat spinal cord injury (SCI).</p> <p>Axerion Therapeutics Inc. has reticulon 4 receptor (RTN4R; NGR) decoys that bind NOGO and two other NGR ligands in preclinical development to treat SCI.</p> <p>SciBX 4(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.737 Published online June 30, 2011</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing or partnering	<p>Sutendra, G. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online June 22, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002194</p> <p>Contact: Evangelos D. Michelakis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada e-mail: em2@ualberta.ca</p>