This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Hypercholesterolemia	Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9)	<p>Mouse and nonhuman primate studies suggest an anti-PCSK9 antibody with pH-sensitive binding could treat hypercholesterolemia more effectively than non-pH-sensitive anti-PCSK9 antibodies. Anti-PCSK9 antibodies can be degraded if bound to their target at low pH. In mice and nonhuman primates, an anti-PCSK9 antibody with pH-sensitive binding had greater serum half-life and duration of cholesterol-lowering effect than a non-pH-sensitive anti-PCSK9 antibody. Next steps could include testing pH-sensitive anti-PCSK9 antibodies in clinical trials. PF-04950615, a humanized PCSK9 antibody from Pfizer Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat hypercholesterolemia. Pfizer has not disclosed whether the antibody has pH-sensitive binding.</p> <p>At least six other companies have PCSK9 inhibitors in Phase II testing or earlier to treat hypercholesterolemia and cardiovascular diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 5(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.227 Published online March 1, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Chaparro-Riggers, J. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Jan. 31, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.319764</p> <p>Contact: Javier Chaparro-Riggers, Rinat-Pfizer Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: javier.chaparro-riggers@rinat.pfizer.com</p>