This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Fibrillation; arrhythmia	Potassium channel Kv1.5 (KCNA5)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest a new class of KCNA5 inhibitors could help treat atrial fibrillation (AF). In a KCNA5-expressing mouse cell line, a dihydropyrazolopyrimidine analog inhibited KCNA5 with a nanomolar IC₅₀ value. In a rabbit model of AF, the compound increased the atrial effective refractory period, a measure of normal cardiac rhythm, compared with vehicle. In normal rats and dogs, the compound had good pharmacokinetics and no toxicity. Future studies could include testing the lead compound in other animal models of fibrillation and/or arrhythmia.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.336 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patented by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.; licensing status unavailable	<p>Finlay, H.J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 12, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm201386u Contact: Heather J. Finlay, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Princeton, N.J. e-mail: heather.finlay@bms.com Contact: John Lloyd, same affiliation as above e-mail: john.lloyd@bms.com</p>