This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	Apelin receptor (APLNR; APJ); apelin (APLN)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest selectively targeting one of two APJ functions could help prevent left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) that leads to heart failure. In pressure overload mouse models of heart failure, <i>Apj</i> knockouts showed less LVH than <i>Apln</i> knockouts, suggesting Apj also can promote hypertrophy independent of Apln-Apj signaling. In <i>Apln</i> -deficient mouse cardiomyocytes, mechanical stretch that mimicked pressure overload induced lower levels of hypertrophic markers in <i>Apj</i> -deficient cells than in <i>Apj</i> -expressing cells. Ongoing work includes testing compounds that agonize APJ's antihypertrophic function to treat LVH.	Unpatented; available for licensing or partnering	Scimia, M.C. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online July 18, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11263 Contact: Pilar Ruiz-Lozano, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: prlozano@stanford.edu
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