This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cardiovascular disease; neurology	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK); toll-like receptor 9 (TLR9)	Cell culture studies suggest activating TLR9 could help protect cardiomyocytes and neurons from stress-induced damage. In cultured cardiomyocytes, a synthetic TLR9 ligand increased survival under hypoxia-induced stress compared with vehicle. In cultured neurons, the TLR9 ligand increased AMPK activation and decreased H ₂ O ₂ -induced cell death compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing the protective effects of activating TLR9 in <i>in vivo</i> models. SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.270 Published online March 21, 2013	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Shintani, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 11, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1219243110 Contact: Ken Suzuki, Queen Mary, University of London, London, U.K. e-mail: ken.suzuki@qmul.ac.uk Contact: Yasunori Shintani, same affiliation as above e-mail: y.shintani@qmul.ac.uk