This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Hypercholesterolemia; hyperlipidemia; dyslipidemia	SEC24 family member A (SEC24A); proprotein convertase subtilisin/ kexin type 9 (PCSK9); low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting SEC24A could help treat hypercholesterolemia and related metabolic indications. In mice, a Sec24a deficiency decreased hepatic secretion of Pcsk9 and increased Ldlr expression compared with no Sec24a deficiency. In the Sec24a-deficient mice, circulating levels of high-density lipoprotein, low-density lipoprotein and total cholesterol were lower than those in nondeficient controls. Next steps include testing the effects of SEC24A knockdown in human hepatocytes.</p> <p>AMG 145, a human mAb against PCSK9 from Amgen Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia and dyslipidemia.</p> <p>REGN727 (SAR236553), a human mAb targeting PCSK9 from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Sanofi, is in Phase III testing to treat hypercholesterolemia.</p> <p>PF-04950615 (PF-4950615; RN315), a PCSK9 inhibitor from Pfizer Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat hypercholesterolemia and acute coronary syndrome.</p> <p>SciBX 6(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.415 Published online May 2, 2013</p>	<p>Unpatented; available for partnering or licensing from the University of Michigan</p> <p>Contact: Robin Rasor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: robinlr@umich.edu</p>	<p>Chen, X.-W. <i>et al. eLife</i>; published online April 9, 2013; doi:10.7554/eLife.00444</p> <p>Contact: David Ginsburg, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: ginsburg@umich.edu</p>