This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal failure	Nitric oxide (NO); γ -glutamyltransferase (GGT)	<i>Ex vivo</i> tissue studies suggest NO-generating prodrugs could help treat acute renal failure. In <i>ex vivo</i> rat aortic ring tissue, a lead <i>N</i> -hydroxyguanidine analog released NO and induced vasodilation. In the aortic ring tissue, a glutamyl prodrug of the lead compound and the renal-specific enzyme GGT increased NO release and vasodilation compared with the prodrug alone. In isolated, perfused rat kidneys, the prodrug increased vasodilation compared with the unconjugated lead compound or an inactive control compound. Next steps include testing the prodrug in models for ischemia- and sepsis-induced acute renal failure.	Unpatented; available for partnering	Zhang, Q. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 5, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400146r Contact: Ian L. Megson, The University of The Highlands and Islands, Inverness, U.K. e-mail: ian.megson@uhi.ac.uk
SciBX 6(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.693 Published online July 18, 2013				