This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular disease	POU class 1 homeobox 1 (POU1F1; PIT1)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest spironolactone could help prevent calcification of vascular and other soft tissues, which is seen in patients who have chronic kidney disease (CKD). In a mouse model of soft tissue calcification, spironolactone decreased tissue calcification and Pit1-mediated osteoinductive signaling compared with vehicle. In human aortic smooth muscle cells, spironolactone and PIT1-targeted small interfering RNA both decreased PIT1-mediated osteoinductive signaling compared with vehicle or control siRNA. Next steps include a prospective clinical trial to determine whether patients with CKD receiving spironolactone or another mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist have less tissue calcification and fewer cardiovascular complications than placebo-treated patients.</p> <p>Spironolactone is a generic mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist and is used as a diuretic in patients who have cardiovascular diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.86 Published online Jan. 31, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Voelkl, J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Jan. 9, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI64093</p> <p>Contact: Florian Lang, University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany e-mail: florian.lang@uni-tuebingen.de</p>