This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Blood clots; thrombosis	Thrombin (factor IIa; F2)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest an allosteric thrombin inhibitor could prevent blood clots and thrombosis. Chemical synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> testing identified a lead compound that bound the allosteric exosite 2 on thrombin and inhibited its activity at a low nanomolar IC ₅₀ value. In a human plasma-based anticoagulation assay, the compound increased time to clot formation compared with vehicle. In platelet-rich human plasma, the compound decreased thrombin-induced platelet aggregation compared with no treatment. Ongoing work includes testing the compound in mouse models of venous thrombosis.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Mehta, A.Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 17, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm4020026 Contact: Umesh R. Desai, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va. e-mail: urdesai@vcu.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.401 Published online April 10, 2014				