

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Peroxisome proliferation activated receptor- δ (PPAR- δ)	Two separate studies in mice suggest that PPAR- δ agonists could be useful for treating atherosclerosis (see previous item). In low-density lipoprotein receptor knockout mice that were fed a high-fat diet, animals receiving the PPAR- δ agonist GW0742 in combination with angiotensin II had about a 70% decrease in mean aortic lesion area compared with knockout mice that received only angiotensin II. The agonist blocked the effects of angiotensin II without significantly altering blood pressure. GW0742 also increased vascular expression of Bcl-6, which led to suppressed inflammatory and atherogenic gene expression. Next steps include clinical testing to determine the efficacy and safety of PPAR- δ agonists to inhibit angiotensin II-mediated inflammation and accelerated atherosclerosis.	Not patented; unlicensed	Takata, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 3, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0708647105 Contact: Rajendra K. Tangirala, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: rtangirala@mednet.ucla.edu