

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cardiovascular disease</b>				
Congestive heart failure (CHF); myocardial fibrosis	Aldosterone synthase (ALDOS; cytochrome P450, family 11, subfamily B, polypeptide 2; CYP11B2)	An SAR study identified a series of heteroaryl derivatives of pyridyl-naphthalene-type CYP11B2 inhibitors that could be useful for treating CHF and myocardial fibrosis. The best derivatives showed high specificity for CYP11B2 compared with that seen for CYP11A2. The two most potent derivatives had an $IC_{50}$ of 0.2 nM. Next steps include preclinical testing to determine if the derivatives are capable of lowering plasma aldosterone levels <i>in vivo</i> . Speedel's SPP2745, a CYP11B2 inhibitor, is in preclinical development for cardiovascular and metabolic indications. Speedel is being acquired by Novartis AG.	Patent applications filed; available for worldwide licensing	Heim, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 1, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm800377h <b>Contact:</b> Rolf W. Hartmann, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany e-mail: <a href="mailto:rwh@mx.uni-saarland.de">rwh@mx.uni-saarland.de</a>