

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Apelin (APLN)	Studies in mice suggest that the apelin peptide could be useful for treating atherosclerosis. In <i>ApoE</i> -deficient mice, apelin suppressed the angiotensin 2 (Ang2)-mediated induction of atherosclerosis and the formation of abdominal aortic aneurysms. In a mouse vein graft model, apelin inhibited Ang2-mediated increases in neointimal formation. Next steps include improving the pharmacokinetic properties of the peptide.	Apelin peptide patented by Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.; Stanford University plans to patent atherosclerosis findings, which are unlicensed	Chun, H. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Sept. 2, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI34871 Contact: Thomas Quertermous, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: tomq1@stanford.edu