

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Renal disease</b>				
Diabetic nephropathy	Angiotensin II receptor, type 1 (AGTR <sub>1</sub> ; AT <sub>1</sub> )	<p>Studies in mice suggest that combination therapy with an AT<sub>1</sub> blocker and a vitamin D analog could help treat or prevent diabetic nephropathy. In mice with streptozotocin-induced diabetes, the AT<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist losartan plus the vitamin D analog paricalcitol prevented albuminuria and lowered glomerulosclerosis compared with the effects of vehicle control. Mice treated with losartan or paricalcitol alone only had moderately improved kidney injury compared with controls. Next steps include clinical testing of the combination therapy. Merck &amp; Co. Inc. markets Cozaar losartan to treat heart failure, hypertension, myocardial infarction (MI), diabetes and stroke.</p> <p>Abbott Laboratories markets Zemplar paricalcitol to treat and prevent secondary hyperparathyroidism (SHPT).</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and sanofi-aventis Group market Avapro irbesartan, a small molecule AT<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist, to treat diabetic nephropathy and renal disease.</p> <p><b>SciBX 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.934</b>  <b>Published online Oct. 23, 2008</b></p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Zhang, Z. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2008;            doi:10.1073/pnas.08037511105  <b>Contact:</b> Yan Chun Li,            University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.            e-mail:  <a href="mailto:cyan@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu">cyan@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu</a></p>