

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Cystathionase (cystathionine γ -lyase) (CTH)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that increasing serum levels of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) could be useful for treating hypertension. Under normal physiological conditions, H₂S is produced by CTH. In mice, Cth double knockout led to an 80% decrease in endogenous H₂S levels in the aorta and heart, which in turn increased hypertension and lowered endothelium-dependent vasorelaxation compared with what was seen in wild-type mice. Next steps include studies to validate the role of H₂S as an endothelial cell-derived relaxing factor.</p> <p>SciBX 1(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.969 Published online Nov. 6, 2008</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Yang, G. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 24, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1162667</p> <p>Contact: Rui Wang, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada e-mail: rwang@lakeheadu.ca</p> <p>Contact: Solomon Snyder, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: ssnyder@jhmi.edu</p> <p>Contact: Lingyun Wu, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada e-mail: lily.wu@usask.ca</p>