SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypercholesterolemia	Liver X receptor-α (NR1H3; LXR-α); NR1H2 (LXR-β); myosin regulatory light chain interacting protein (MYLIP; IDOL)	A study in human and mouse cell culture suggests that antagonizing IDOL could help lower cholesterol. Gene expression analysis showed that the E3 ubiquitin ligase IDOL is upregulated by LXR, a transcription factor that regulates cholesterol uptake and export in the liver. In cell culture, small hairpin RNA knockdown of IDOL led to higher levels of low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR) and greater cholesterol uptake than mock treatment. Next steps include testing the effect of IDOL knockdown on serum cholesterol in animals and developing small molecule antagonists of IDOL. XL652, an LXR agonist from Exelixis Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase I testing to treat metabolic and cardiovascular disorders. *SciBX* 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1008 Published online June 25, 2009	Patented; available for licensing	Zelcer, N. *et al. Science*; published online June 11, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1168974 **Contact:** Peter Tontonoz, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: ptontonoz@mednet.ucla.edu