

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiac hypertrophy	Inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate receptor (ITPR; IP3R)	Studies in rats, mice and patients suggest that antagonizing IP3R could be useful for preventing cardiac hypertrophy. In hypertensive rats, hypertrophic cardiomyocytes had greater Ip3r-mediated arrhythmogenic calcium release than cardiomyocytes from control rats. In heart tissue from hypertrophic mice and from patients with ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy, compared with healthy heart tissue, IP3R expression was increased. Next steps include evaluating the function of IP3R in the diseased heart and determining whether inhibiting its function will fix aberrant calcium signaling.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Harzheim, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 22, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905485106 Contact: H. Llewelyn Roderick, Babraham Institute, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: llewelyn.roderick@bbsrc.ac.uk
		SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1043 Published online July 9, 2009		