This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Hypertension; cardiovascular; hematology; hemolytic disease; transfusion; malaria; sickle cell disease	Hemoglobin	<p>Studies in canines and in guinea pigs suggest that increasing haptoglobin levels could help reduce the hypertensive and oxidative effects of cell-free hemoglobin infusion. Cell-free hemoglobin is used to treat hemolytic diseases such as sickle cell disease and severe malaria. In beagles, prednisone treatment resulted in increases in plasma haptoglobin that reduced the hypertensive effects of cell-free hemoglobin infusion compared with those seen in controls receiving hemoglobin alone. In guinea pigs, haptoglobin infusion prevented the hypertensive effects of hemoglobin infusion. Guinea pigs given haptoglobin infusion also had less hemoglobin-induced peroxidative activity and oxidative tissue damage than controls. Next steps include evaluating the use of haptoglobin in patients with hemolytic anemias or complications of severe malaria.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1159 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Boretti, F.S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39115</p> <p>Contact: Dominik J. Schaer, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: dominik.schaer@usz.ch</p> <p>Contact: Abdu I. Alayash, Food and Drug Administration, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: abdu.alayash@fda.hhs.gov</p>