This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	*Upstream binding protein 1* (*UBP1*)	Human genetic studies identified a series of SNPs in UBP1 that could be useful as markers for hypertension. In three patient cohorts, rs17030583 in *UBP1* was significantly associated with increased systolic and diastolic blood pressure (p=9.9×10^{-4} and 6.3×10^{-3}, respectively). An analysis of subjects from the same cohorts showed that rs2291897 in *UBP1* also was significantly associated with increased systolic and diastolic blood pressure (p=3.6×10^{-4} and 3×10^{-3}, respectively). Next steps include confirming the results in additional human populations and identifying the associated functional mutation in the *UBP1* gene. ***SciBX*** **2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1241** **Published online Aug. 20, 2009**	Multiple patent applications filed covering use of *UBP1* polymorphism in the diagnosis of blood pressure as well as assays to screen for *UBP1* modulators; available for licensing from the Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne Industrial Relations Office	Koutnikova, H. *et al. PLoS Genet.*; published online Aug. 7, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000591 **Contact:** Johan Auwerx, Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: admin.auwerx@epfl.ch