

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular disease	Apolipoprotein C-III (APOCIII; APOC3)	<p>A study in humans suggests that decreased APOC3 expression may lead to favorable plasma lipid profiles and cardioprotective effects. In a high-fat challenge experiment, individuals carrying a heterozygous <i>APOC3</i> null mutation, R19X, had significantly lower fasting and postprandial triglycerides, higher HDL cholesterol, lower low-density lipoprotein and lower total cholesterol than individuals with wild-type <i>APOC3</i> ($p=9.0 \times 10^{-7}$, $p=0.001$ and $p=0.02$ respectively). In a separate analysis of 1,033 individuals, those carrying the mutation were less likely to have any coronary artery calcification than wild-type carriers ($p=0.002$). Further studies are necessary to characterize the role of the mutation in carriers and to develop a compound that could either lower APOC3 levels or mimic the effects of decreasing APOC3.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.13 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Pollin, T. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Dec. 11, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1161524 Contact: Toni I. Pollin, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: tpollin@medicine.umaryland.edu</p>