

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Phosducin (PDC)	<i>In vitro</i> , mouse and human studies suggest that increasing PDC levels could help treat stress-dependent hypertension. In mice, animals with <i>Pdc</i> knockout had greater stress-dependent blood pressure than wild-type mice. In humans, SNPs at the <i>PDC</i> locus were associated with a phenotype of stress-dependent high blood pressure. Next steps include identifying the molecular target of PDC within sympathetic neurons and studying the association of PDC SNPs with other diseases, including myocardial infarction (MI), arrhythmia, heart failure and metabolic syndrome.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Beetz, N. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Nov. 23, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI38433 Contact: Lutz Hein, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: lutz.hein@pharmakol.uni-freiburg.de Contact: Ulrich Broeckel, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis. e-mail: broeckel@mcw.edu
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