

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cardiovascular disease</b>				
Hypertension	Calcium channel, L-type (LTCC)	<p>An SAR study characterized a series of anthracene-maleimide compounds that block LTCC and could be useful for treating hypertension. In rat caudal myocytes, the lead compound blocked LTCC peak L-type Ca<sup>2+</sup> current with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of about 16.5 μM and inhibited muscle contractile activity. Next steps include <i>in vivo</i> preclinical testing of the lead compound.</p> <p>There are at least 17 calcium channel blockers approved to treat hypertension.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.275</b> <b>Published online Feb. 19, 2009</b></p>	Patent application filed in Italy; unlicensed	<p>Bova, S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 9, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801589x</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Alessandra Bisi, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy e-mail: <a href="mailto:alessandra.bisi@unibo.it">alessandra.bisi@unibo.it</a></p>