This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF2; FGF-2)	<p>Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in rats suggest that targeting FGF2 could help treat pulmonary hypertension. <i>In vitro</i>, pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cells exposed to medium conditioned with pulmonary endothelium cells from pulmonary hypertension patients showed greater proliferation and higher levels of FGF2 than that seen in controls. In a rat model of pulmonary hypertension, inhibition of FGF2 prevented or reversed the disease. Next steps include developing FGF2 inhibitors for therapeutic intervention in humans.</p> <p>At least seven companies have therapeutics to treat pulmonary hypertension in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.276 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Izikki, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 9, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI35070</p> <p>Contact: Saadia Eddahibi, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Créteil, France e-mail: saadia.eddahibi@inserm.fr</p>