

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Natriuretic peptide precursor A (NPPA); NPPB	<p>Genomewide association studies identified common genetic variants at the <i>NPPA-NPPB</i> locus and suggested that activating the natriuretic peptide system could help treat hypertension. Using multiple clinical cohorts, genotyping 13 SNPs in the <i>NPPA-NPPB</i> locus identified several variants associated with either plasma atrial natriuretic peptide or B-type natriuretic peptide levels. In a separate cohort of 29,717 individuals, analysis of four selected variants showed that the alleles rs5069 and rs198358 were associated with higher circulating natriuretic peptide concentration, lower systolic and diastolic blood pressure and lower rates of hypertension. The next steps could include clinical studies with phenotyping to determine the role of the variants in cardiovascular physiology.</p> <p>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.315 Published online Feb. 26, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Newton-Cheh, C. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Feb. 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.328</p> <p>Contact: Christopher Newton-Cheh, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: cnewtoncheh@partners.org</p>