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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ athway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiac hypertrophy	Endothelin-1 (EDN1; ET-1); inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate receptor 1 (ITPR1; IP3R)	*In vitro* studies suggest that targeting the endothelin pathway in cardiac myocytes could help treat cardiac hypertrophy. In neonatal rat ventricular myocytes, EDN1 promoted IP3R-mediated nuclear Ca^{2+} release, which induced hypertrophy compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include validating IP3R signaling as a target in animal models of cardiac hypertrophy. Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc. has PS433540, a dual angiotensin and EDN1 receptor antagonist, in Phase II testing to treat hypertension.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Higazi, D. *et al. Cell*; published online Feb. 26, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2009.02.005 **Contact:** H. Llewelyn Roderick, Babraham Institute, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: llewelyn.roderick@bbsrc.ac.uk **Contact:** Martin D. Bootman, same affiliation as above e-mail: martin.bootman@bbsrc.ac.uk

SciBX 2(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.355
Published online March 5, 2009