This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Lipase, endothelial (LIPG)	Mutational analysis in humans suggests that inhibiting LIPG may help prevent atherosclerosis. In a meta-analysis, individuals with a loss-of-function mutation in LIPG had significantly higher plasma high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol levels than those of a common variant of the protein (p=0.007). The loss-of-function mutations led to LIPG activity levels that were 40% or less than those of the wild-type variant. Next steps include evaluating the long-term effects of increasing HDL levels following LIPG inhibition. Higher HDL is associated with a lower risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Xenical orlistat, a reversible lipase inhibitor from Roche and GlaxoSmithKline plc, is marketed to treat obesity. Micronized fenofibrate, an oral inhibitor of lipoprotein lipase from Solvay S.A., is marketed to treat coronary artery disease (CAD).	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Edmondson, A.C. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI37176 **Contact:** Daniel J. Rader, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: rader@mail.med.upenn.edu

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