This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis; hypertension	Prostaglandin F receptor (PTGFR; FP)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing FP could help treat atherosclerosis and hypertension. Depression of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system is known to slow atherogenesis. In FP^{-/-} mice, resting systolic blood pressure was significantly lower than that seen in wild-type controls ($p < 0.05$). FP^{-/-} mice also had significantly lower plasma renin, angiotensin and aldosterone concentrations than wild-type controls ($p < 0.05$). In hyperlipidemic mice, FP deficiency lowered the development of atherosclerotic lesions compared with that seen in controls that expressed FP. Next steps include evaluating the effects of FP antagonists and extending the work to additional models of atherosclerosis and hypertension. PDC31, an injectable FP antagonist from Theratechnologies Inc. and PDC Biotech GmbH, is in preclinical development to prevent premature labor and dysmenorrhea. The companies' PDC41, a topical formulation, is in preclinical testing for dysmenorrhea.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.703 Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for use in vascular and metabolic indications; unavailable for licensing	<p>Yu, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 22, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811834106 Contact: Garret A. FitzGerald, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: garret@exchange.upenn.edu</p>