

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Pulmonary hypertension	VEGF	<p>Studies in rats suggest that VEGF-based therapies to treat pulmonary hypertension could also increase idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). In a rat model of IPF, adenoviral delivery of VEGF lowered endothelial apoptosis, increased vascularization and improved pulmonary arterial pressure but worsened pulmonary fibrosis compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include additional animal studies to investigate the effects of both VEGF blockade and stimulation in the lungs.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.705 Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Farkas, L. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 13, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI36136</p> <p>Contact: Martin Kolb, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada e-mail: kolbm@mcmaster.ca</p>