This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Thrombosis	Vesicle-associated membrane protein 8 (VAMP8)	An <i>in vitro</i> and mouse study suggests that inhibiting VAMP8 could be useful for preventing thrombosis. In a mouse model of vascular injury, <i>Vamp8</i> knockout led to delayed and lower thrombus formation than that seen in wild-type controls. Similar results were seen in a mouse model of Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome, which is characterized by impaired platelet aggregation. Platelets isolated from <i>Vamp8</i> ^{-/-} mice required higher thrombin concentrations to induce aggregation than platelets from wild-type mice. Next steps include developing small molecule inhibitors of VAMP8 signaling.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Graham, G.J. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online April 24, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-03-210211 Contact: Sidney W. Whiteheart, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: whitehe@uky.edu
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