

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that activating GHRH signaling in the heart could help reduce damage after acute MI. In rat MI models, a GHRH agonist, JI-38, reduced cardiac fibrosis and slowed the decline of cardiac function compared with placebo. <i>In vitro</i>, JI-38 increased levels of cardiac precursor cells and antiapoptotic gene expression. Next steps include studies with JI-38 in larger animals prior to submitting an IND for a Phase I trial to prevent cardiac damage following MI.</p> <p>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.184 Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; JI-38 available for licensing	<p>Kanashiro-Takeuchi, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0914138107</p> <p>Contact: Joshua M. Hare, University of Miami, Miami, Fla. e-mail: jhare@med.miami.edu</p> <p>Contact: Andrew V. Schally, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Miami, Fla. e-mail: andrew.schally@va.gov</p>