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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Apolipoprotein B-100 (APOB-100); T cell receptor-β variable 3-1 (TRBV3-1; TCRBV3S1)	A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that blocking T cell response to APOB-100 could help treat and prevent atherosclerosis. In cell culture, T cells that reacted to APOB-100 expressed TRBV3-1. In a mouse model of atherosclerosis, increasing expression of anti-Trbv3-1 antibodies to block Trbv-1 signaling led to inhibition of T cell reactivity to ApoB-100 and reduction in atherosclerotic lesion size by 65% compared with what was seen in noninduced controls. Next steps include evaluating the effects of blocking the T cell response to APOB-100 in long-term studies. Mipomersen, a second-generation antisense inhibitor of APOB-100 mRNA from Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Genzyme Corp., is in Phase III testing to treat hypercholesterolemia. At least six other companies have compounds targeting APOB-100 in Phase I or earlier to treat atherosclerosis or hypercholesterolemia.	Patent application filed covering use in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; licensing status undisclosed	Hermansson, A. *et al. J. Exp. Med.*; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20092243 **Contact:** Göran K. Hansson, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: goran.hansson@ki.se

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