

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Calpain small subunit 1 (CAPNS1; CAPN4)	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest inhibiting calpain could help treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). In smooth muscle cells isolated from patients with PAH, calpain activation was greater than that in cells isolated from healthy lungs. In a mouse model of PAH, animals lacking Capns1 had less right ventricular remodeling, arteriole thickening, systolic pressure and hypertrophy than wild-type controls. In a rat model of PAH, a small molecule calpain inhibitor decreased hypertension compared with vehicle. Next steps include confirming the findings with human patient samples.	Unpatented; available for licensing	Ma, W. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Oct. 17, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI57734 Contact: Yunchao Su, Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta, Ga. e-mail: ysu@georgiahealth.edu
<p>SciBX 4(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1209 Published online Nov. 3, 2011</p>				