

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Angina; myocardial infarction (MI); heart failure	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 family mitochondrial (ALDH2)	Rat studies suggest an ALDH2 activator plus nitroglycerin could help treat cardiac indications more safely than nitroglycerin alone. Continuous use of nitroglycerin leads to inactivation of ALDH2 and nitroglycerin tolerance. In rats with induced MI, those that had received sustained delivery of nitroglycerine plus an ALDH2 activator had smaller infarct size and greater cardiac function than rats that had received sustained delivery of nitroglycerin alone. Next steps could include testing ALDH2-activating compounds in patients typically given nitroglycerin. Aldea Pharmaceuticals Inc. is working to optimize their lead ALDH2 activator, dubbed Alda1.	Patented; available for licensing through Aldea Pharmaceuticals	Sun, L. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Nov. 2, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002067 Contact: Daria Mochly-Rosen, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: mochly@stanford.edu Contact: Lihan Sun, same affiliation as above e-mail: lsun1219@gmail.com Contact: Julio Cesar Batista Ferreira, same affiliation as above e-mail: juliof@stanford.edu
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