

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular disease	Collagen type VI $\alpha 2$ (COL6A2); Down syndrome cell adhesion molecule (DSCAM)	Drosophila, mouse and human cell line studies suggest mutations causing DSCAM and COL6A2 overexpression could help predict risk of congenital heart disease (CHD). In Drosophila overexpressing candidate CHD genes, <i>DSCAM</i> and <i>COL6A2</i> disrupted heart function. In mice, overexpression of both genes led to increased heart defects, including hypertrophy, compared with overexpression of either gene alone. Next steps include identifying compounds that lower levels of DSCAM and COL6A2.	Findings unpatented; available for licensing from the University of California, San Diego	Grossman, T.R. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online Nov. 3, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1002344 Contact: Ethan Bier, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ebier@ucsd.edu
		SciBX 4(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1294 Published online Dec. 1, 2011		