

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial infarction (MI)	NLR family pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3); NALP3; purinergic receptor P2X ligand-gated ion channel 7 (P2RX7; P2X7)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting inflammasome components after acute MI could help decrease damage and prevent heart failure. In a mouse model of acute MI, inflammasome components were upregulated in cells at the ischemic border compared with cells in remote zones. Inhibition of inflammasome components NLRP3 or P2X7 prevented post-MI increases in inflammasome activity and decreased cardiac remodeling and enlargement compared with scrambled small interfering RNA or vehicle control. Next steps include identifying additional ways to block inflammasome formation in cardiac injury.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Mezzaroma, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 21, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1108586108 Contact: Antonio Abbate, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va. e-mail: aabbate@mcvh-vcu.edu
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