

### This week in therapeutics

| Indication                    | Target/marker/pathway                    | Summary  | Licensing status                        | Publication and contact information   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Cardiovascular disease</b> |  |  |   |   |
| Atherosclerosis               | Growth differentiation factor 15 (GDF15) | <p>Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that inhibiting GDF15 could help treat atherosclerosis. In patients, GDF15 expression was higher in acute, unstable angina pectoris than stable angina pectoris. In a mouse model of atherosclerosis, deficiency of hematopoietic Gdf15 led to lower development of early atherosclerotic lesions than that in wild-type controls. Next steps include testing Gdf15 inhibition in mice and exploring GDF15 as a biomarker for unstable angina pectoris.</p> <p><b>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.193</b><br/>                     Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p> | Patent and licensing status undisclosed | <p>de Jager, S.C.A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 17, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20100370<br/> <b>Contact:</b> Saskia C.A. de Jager, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands<br/>                     e-mail: <a href="mailto:s.de.jager@lacdr.leidenuniv.nl">s.de.jager@lacdr.leidenuniv.nl</a></p> |