

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiomyopathy	Myosin heavy chain 6 cardiac muscle-α (MYH6)	Studies in mice and in human samples suggest that inducing tolerance to MYH6 could help prevent autoimmune myocarditis. In immunodeficient mice, adoptive transfer of Myh6-specific T cells caused severe myocarditis. In a separate set of mice, increasing host tolerance of Myh6 prevented the development of myosin autoantibodies and myocarditis. Samples from three myocarditis patients had higher levels of MYH6-specific T cells than samples from three controls without myocarditis. Next steps include confirming that an increase in T cell reactivity to the MYH6 protein occurs in a large cohort of myocarditis patients.	Work unpatented; models used in study available for licensing	Lv, H. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online March 23, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI44583 Contact: Myra A. Lipes, Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston, Mass e-mail: myra.lipes@joslin.harvard.edu

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