

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Arrhythmia	Store overload-induced Ca ²⁺ release (SOICR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest SOICR inhibitors could increase the efficacy of β-blockers to prevent ventricular arrhythmia. A compound with SOICR blocking activity was synthesized based on the parent compound Coreg carvedilol, which is the only β-blocker known to also inhibit SOICR. In mice with ventricular arrhythmia, the new compound plus the β-blockers Toprol metoprolol or bisoprolol decreased the duration of arrhythmia compared with metoprolol or bisoprolol alone. Next steps could include determining whether the analogs have other actions in addition to anti-SOICR activity.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Coreg for various cardiovascular indications.</p> <p>Egalet A/S and partner RedHill BioPharma Ltd. are developing EG-P042, a prolonged-release formulation of carvedilol that is in Phase II testing for hypertension.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc markets Toprol for various cardiovascular indications.</p> <p>Bisoprolol is a generic β-blocker.</p> <p>SciBX 4(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.793 Published online July 21, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhou, Q. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 10, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2406</p> <p>Contact: S.R. Wayne Chen, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada e-mail: swchen@ucalgary.ca</p>