This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Apelin (APLN)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest APLN could help treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). In pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells from idiopathic PAH patients, APLN mRNA and protein levels were lower than those in healthy controls. In a mouse model of mild PAH, daily intraperitoneal injections of Apln reversed disease symptoms compared with injections of vehicle. Next steps could include determining whether APLN is decreased in additional PAH patient populations.</p> <p>SciBX 4(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.908 Published online Aug. 18, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Alastalo, T.-P. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Aug. 8, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI43382</p> <p>Contact: Marlene Rabinovitch, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: marlener@stanford.edu</p>