This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	G protein-coupled bile acid receptor 1 (GPBAR1; TGR5)	<p>Mouse studies suggest agonizing TGR5 could help prevent atherosclerosis. In a mouse model of atherosclerosis, the TGR5 agonist INT-777 decreased plaque size and expression of proinflammatory cytokines compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include testing the effect of TGR5 agonists on cardiac function in models of metabolic disease. INT-777, a TGR5 agonist from Intercept Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical development for metabolic syndrome and diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 5(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.14 Published online Jan. 5, 2012</p>	Composition- of-matter patents for TGR5-agonizing compounds filed by Intercept Pharmaceuticals; licensing status unavailable	<p>Pols, T.W.H. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Dec. 7, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2011.11.006 Contact: Kristina Schoonjans, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: kristina.schoonjans@epfl.ch</p>