

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cardiovascular disease</b>				
Atherosclerosis	Rho kinase	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting rho kinase could help prevent atherosclerosis progression. Hydrogels that modeled the low vessel elasticity of aged individuals had greater vessel permeability than hydrogels that modeled the higher vessel elasticity of younger individuals. In bovine aortic endothelial cells or mouse aortas, pharmacological or small interfering RNA inhibition of rho kinase led to more rho-dependent elasticity and less vessel permeability than no rho kinase inhibition. Next steps include developing an inhibitor of rho kinase and a targeted delivery method.</p> <p>At least nine companies have rho kinase inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat various conditions including aneurysm and glaucoma.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.15</b> Published online Jan. 5, 2012</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Huynh, J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 7, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002761  <b>Contact:</b> Cynthia A. Reinhart-King, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:cak57@cornell.edu">cak57@cornell.edu</a></p>