This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Aneurysm	Properdin	<p>Studies in mice suggest inhibiting properdin could help treat abdominal aortic aneurysm. Properdin is a protein involved in the proinflammatory complement alternative pathway. In mouse models of abdominal aortic aneurysm, properdin deficiency prevented the condition compared with wild-type properdin expression. An anti-properdin antibody also prevented abdominal aortic aneurysm compared with control antibody. Next steps include further studies of the role properdin plays in the development of abdominal aortic aneurysm.</p> <p>SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.178 Published online Feb. 16, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Zhou, H.-f. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 30, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1119000109 Contact: Dennis E. Hourcade, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: dhourcad@dom.wustl.edu</p>