

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiomyopathy	VEGF receptor 1 (FLT1; VEGFR-1)	Human and mouse studies suggest inhibiting soluble FLT1 (sFLT1) could help prevent or treat peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM) in women with pre-eclampsia, a known risk factor for PPCM. In postpartum women with pre-eclampsia and PPCM, sFLT1 levels were up to 10-fold higher than those in postpartum women who had neither condition. In prepartum women with pre-eclampsia, elevated sFLT1 levels correlated with cardiac dysfunction. In normal pregnant and nonpregnant mice, mouse sFlt1 decreased cardiac function compared with vehicle. Ongoing work includes identifying small molecule inhibitors of sFLT1 secretion.	Unpatented; available for partnering	Patten, I.S. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online May 9, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11040 Contact: Zoltan Arany, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: zarany@bidmc.harvard.edu Contact: Denise Hilfiker-Kleiner, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany e-mail: hilfiker.denise@mh-hannover.de
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