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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Gremlin 1 (GREM1); macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest a GREM1 fusion protein could be used to antagonize MIF and treat atherosclerosis. In an *apolipoprotein E* (*APOE*)-deficient mouse model of atherosclerosis, Grem1 and Mif colocalized to atherosclerotic lesions, and *in vitro* binding assays showed that GREM1 binds to MIF. In *ApoE*-deficient mice fed a cholesterol-rich diet, a Grem1 fusion protein with better pharmacokinetics than native Grem1 decreased levels of Mif, numbers of macrophages in atherosclerotic lesions and formation of lesions compared with a control fusion protein. Next steps include identifying GREM1-MIF interaction sites. *SciBX* 6(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1096 Published online Oct. 10, 2013	Patented application filed; available for licensing	Muller, I. *et al. J. Biol. Chem.*; published online Sept. 3, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.477745 **Contact:** Meinrad Gawaz, Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany e-mail: meinrad.gawaz@med.uni-tuebingen.de