

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	Not applicable	<p>A zebrafish study suggests atrial cardiomyocytes can be converted to ventricular cardiomyocytes, which could be useful for treating heart failure. In zebrafish, chemically induced ventricular cardiomyocyte death resulted in proliferation and migration of atrial cardiomyocytes into ventricles. In the zebrafish, the migrating cardiomyocytes lost expression of atria-specific markers and gained expression of ventricle-specific markers, indicative of transdifferentiation, which led to recovered ventricular function. Next steps include generating ventricular cardiomyocytes <i>in vitro</i> from various cellular sources, including atrial cardiomyocytes, to rescue heart failure in mouse models.</p> <p>SciBX 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.758 Published online Aug. 1, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing not applicable	<p>Zhang, R. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 19, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12322 Contact: Neil C. Chi, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: nchi@ucsd.edu</p>