This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Atherosclerosis; Alzheimer's disease (AD); diabetes; inflammation	CD36 (GPIV)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest inhibiting CD36 could help suppress inflammation in atherosclerosis, AD and type 2 diabetes. Macrophages convert soluble forms of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) into cholesterol crystals and β-amyloid (Aβ) into amyloid deposits, which can provoke inflammatory responses in the vasculature, brain and pancreas. In mice and mouse macrophages deficient in Cd36, the inflammatory response was lower than that in nondeficient controls. In a mouse model for atherosclerosis, an antisense oligonucleotide against CD36 decreased inflammatory reactions and plaque formation compared with a control oligonucleotide. Next steps include testing CD36 antisense strategies in mouse models for other diseases that involve plaque formation such as AD. Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc. provided the CD36 antisense oligonucleotide. Arteria S.A. has a CD36 inhibitor in preclinical development for dyslipidemia. ***SciBX*** **6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.766** **Published online Aug. 1, 2013**	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Sheedy, F.J. *et al. Nat. Immunol.*; published online June 30, 2013; doi:10.1038/ni.2639 **Contact:** Kathryn J. Moore, New York University Langone Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: kathryn.moore@nyumc.org