

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	IL-17	<p>Studies in patient samples, human cell culture and mice suggest upregulation of IL-17 signaling could help reduce the risk of cardiovascular events. In 132 human atherosclerotic plaques, transcriptome analysis identified a correlation between levels of IL-17, fibrous collagen and a marker of smooth muscle cells. In cultured human vascular smooth muscle cells, IL-17 increased abundance of fibrous collagen compared with no treatment. In a mouse model of atherosclerosis, an anti-IL-17 antibody decreased the size of fibrous caps and stability of atherosclerotic plaques compared with a nonspecific antibody. Planned work includes investigation of other molecules in the IL-17 signaling pathway as potential therapeutic targets to help stabilize atherosclerotic plaques.</p> <p>SciBX 6(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.826 Published online Aug. 15, 2013</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed; available for partnering	<p>Gisterå, A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online July 31, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3006133 Contact: Göran K. Hansson, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: goran.hansson@ki.se Contact: Richard A. Flavell, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: richard.flavell@yale.edu</p>