

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Vanin 1 (VNN1); adrenergic receptor β_1 (ADRB1)	Genetic analysis and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting VNN1 could help prevent hypertension. In a meta-analysis of 30,000 African-American subjects, a SNP encoding an N131S missense mutation in <i>VNN1</i> was associated with low blood pressure and low plasma VNN1 levels. Human cell lines harboring the <i>VNN1</i> mutation exhibited greater intracellular degradation of VNN1 and lower surface expression of the protein than cells harboring wild-type <i>VNN1</i> . In a human monocyte cell line, an ADRB1 antagonist or calcium channel blocker used to treat hypertension decreased VNN1 levels in a dose-dependent manner. Next steps include investigating the potential causal relationship between Vnn1 and blood pressure in rat models.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Wang, Y.-J. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online Sept. 18, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1004641 Contact: Xiaofeng Zhu, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: xiaofeng.zhu@case.edu Contact: Ya-Juan Wang, same affiliation as above e-mail: yajuan.wang@case.edu
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