This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Myosin regulatory light chain interacting protein (MYLIP; MIR; IDOL); liver X receptor (LXR)	Nonhuman primate studies suggest combining MYLIP inhibitors with LXR agonists could help treat atherosclerosis. LXR agonists used in atherosclerosis treatment raise plasma low-density lipoprotein (LDL) levels as a side effect. In normal nonhuman primates, an LXR agonist increased plasma LDL levels and hepatic *Mylip* mRNA levels compared with vehicle. In nonhuman primates fed a high-fat diet, an antisense oligonucleotide against *MYLIP* attenuated LXR agonist–induced increases in plasma LDL levels. Ongoing work includes screening for small molecule MYLIP inhibitors. Exelixis Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. have XL041 (BMS-852927), a small molecule modulator of LXR, in Phase I testing to treat metabolic syndrome. Vitae Pharmaceuticals Inc. has two LXR-β (NR1H2) agonists in preclinical development: VTP-38443 for acute coronary syndrome and VTP-38543 for dermatitis. ***SciBX*** **7(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1349** **Published online Dec. 4, 2014**	Patented; available for licensing	Hong, C. *et al. Cell Metab.*; published online Nov. 4, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2014.10.001 **Contact:** Peter Tontonoz, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: ptontonoz@mednet.ucla.edu **Contact:** Ryan E. Temel, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: ryan.temel@uky.edu