This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	Peroxisome proliferation–activated receptor-γ (PPARG; PPARγ); myeloid-lymphoma or mixed-lineage 5 (MLL5); 5′-3′ exoribonuclease 2 (XRN2)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest activating genes involved in the plasma cholesterol–lowering response could help treat atherosclerosis. In a mouse model of atherosclerosis with elevated low-density lipoprotein levels, blocking hepatic synthesis of lipoproteins to lower plasma cholesterol induced regression of plaques and stimulated different gene expression networks controlled by PPARγ in early stages of plaque expansion and by MLL5 and XRN2 in later stages. In an *in vitro* model of atherosclerosis, knockdown of these individual regulatory transcription factors increased cholesterol esterase accumulation by 12%–21%. Next steps include validating the role of the regulatory genes in plaque formation.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Björkegren, J.L.M. *et al. PLoS Genet.*; published online Feb. 27, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1004201 **Contact:** Josefin Skogsberg, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: josefin.skogsberg@ki.se

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