### This week in therapeutics

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| Cardiovascular disease   | c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK); MAP kinase 1 (MAPK1; ERK-2); MAPK3 (ERK-1) | *In vitro* and rodent studies suggest ophiopogonin D could help prevent doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity. In rat heart-derived embryonic myocytes, pretreatment with *Ophiopogon japonicas*-derived ophiopogonin D protected against doxorubicin-induced reactive oxygen species generation and autophagic cell death through inhibition of ERK1 and ERK2 and activation of JNK. In mice, ophiopogonin D treatment decreased doxorubicin-induced autophagy and prevented cardiac contractile dysfunction compared with doxorubicin treatment alone. Next steps could include testing the protective effects of ophiopogonin D in additional models of doxorubicin cardiotoxicity. | Patent and licensing status unavailable | Zhang, Y.-Y. et al. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*; published online Nov. 5, 2014; doi:10.1124/jpet.114.219261  
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