This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitors could potentially be used to treat or prevent type 1 diabetes. In pre-diabetic mice, the PDGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor Gleevec imatinib lowered insulinitis and the incidence of diabetes compared with what was seen in mice that received oil control solution. The kinase inhibitor Sutent sunitinib produced similar results. Next steps include running a Phase II trial to measure the safety profiles of a tyrosine kinase inhibitor in treating type 1 diabetes patients.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Gleevec, a Bcr-Abl tyrosine kinase inhibitor, and Pfizer Inc. markets Sutent, a small molecule inhibitor of multiple receptor tyrosine kinases, to treat multiple cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1019 Published online Nov. 20, 2008</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing in the U.S.	<p>Louvet, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 17, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810246105</p> <p>Contact: Jeffery Bluestone, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: jbluest@diabetes.ucsf.edu</p>