This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Pancreatic β -cells	<p>Studies in mice suggest that short-acting sulfonylurea compounds could be superior to longer-acting sulfonylurea compounds for treating diabetes. In mice, slow, continuous release of the sulfonylurea glibenclamide led to inhibition of β-cell ATP-sensitive potassium channels, hyperexcitability of the β-cell and subsequent insulin secretory failure without β-cell death. The insulin secretory capacity of the β-cells could be restored following a drug washout, which suggests that short-acting sulfonylureas could delay sulfonylurea-induced failure of the insulin secretory response by providing β-cells with a rest period when hyperexcitability is removed. Next steps include controlled long-term trials using both long- and short-acting sulfonylureas.</p> <p>SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.996 Published online Nov. 13, 2008</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Remedi, M. & Nichols, C. <i>PLoS Med.</i>; published online Oct. 27, 2008; doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050206 Contact: Colin Nichols, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: cnichols@wustl.edu</p>