This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Neurexin 3 (NRXN3)	<p>Genomewide association studies identified a locus in the <i>NRXN3</i> gene associated with waist circumference that could help predict risk of obesity. In eight Caucasian cohort studies, the rs10146997 allele was significantly associated with waist circumference, body mass index and risk of obesity ($p=6.4\times10^{-7}$, $p=7.4\times10^{-6}$ and $p=3.2\times10^{-5}$, respectively). The <i>NRXN3</i> gene has also been linked to addiction and reward behavior, suggesting a neurological association with obesity. The next steps include sequencing studies in that region of the genome to identify functional variants.</p> <p>SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1078 Published online July 16, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Heard-Costa, N. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online June 26, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000539</p> <p>Contact: Kari E. North, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: knorth@email.unc.edu</p> <p>Contact: Caroline S. Fox, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Framingham, Mass. e-mail: foxca@nhlbi.nih.gov</p>