This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Zinc finger protein 642 (ZNF642)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that the transcription factor ZNF642 is associated with obesity-linked type 2 diabetes and could help predict risk of or treat the disease. <i>ZNF642</i> is the human ortholog of murine <i>Zfp69</i>. In obese mice, a truncated loss-of-function variant of <i>Zfp69</i> was associated with reduced susceptibility to diabetes, whereas expression of the full-length wild-type allele was associated with increased hyperglycemia. In type 2 diabetes patients, <i>ZNF642</i> was highly expressed in adipose tissues. Next steps include developing an assay for the transcription factor and screening for compounds that decrease activity of ZNF642.</p> <p>SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1107 Published online July 23, 2009</p>	A patent application has been filed; available for licensing	<p>Scherneck, S. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online July 2, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000541</p> <p>Contact: Hans-Georg Joost; German Institute of Human Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbruecke, Nuthetal, Germany e-mail: joost@dife.de</p>