This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP1R; GLP-1R); glucagon receptor (GCGR)	<p>Studies in rodents suggest that a coagonist of GLP1R and GCGR could help treat obesity. In mice, subcutaneous injection of PEGylated peptide coagonists decreased body weight and food intake compared with saline injection. The compounds did not cause hypo- or hyperglycemia. Next steps could include further optimization of the peptides to create a clinical candidate.</p> <p>At least 11 companies have GLP1R agonists in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1149 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Patent applications filed in the U.S. and several other countries; technology exclusively licensed from Indiana University to Marcadia Biotech Inc.; Marcadia and Merck & Co. Inc. have a collaboration to develop and commercialize the technology	<p>Day, J. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.209</p> <p>Contact: Richard DiMarchi, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. e-mail: rdimarch@indiana.edu</p>