This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Angiopoietin-like 2 (ANGPTL2)	<p>Mouse and human serum studies suggest that inhibiting ANGPTL2 could help treat obesity. Angptl2 expression in white adipose tissue was greater in obese mice than in nonobese controls. In human serum samples, higher levels of ANGPTL2 were associated with adiposity, systemic insulin resistance and inflammation. In mice, <i>Angptl2</i> knockout in adipose tissues reduced adiposity and obesity-related adipose tissue inflammation, whereas upregulation in adipose tissues caused local inflammation and systemic insulin resistance in nonobese mice. Next steps include developing ANGPTL2-specific antibodies or small molecule inhibitors of the protein.</p> <p>SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1311 Published online Sept. 3, 2009</p>	Patent application filed in Japan; IP unlicensed	<p>Tabata, M. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Sept. 1, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2009.08.003</p> <p>Contact: Yuichi Oike, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan e-mail: oike@gpo.kumamoto-u.ac.jp</p>