This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Serine/threonine kinase 11 (STK11; LKB1)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting LKB1 could help treat diabetes. In adult mice, pancreatic β cell-specific knockout of <i>Lkb1</i> significantly accelerated glucose clearance compared with that in controls ($p < 0.05$). <i>Lkb1</i> knockout mice had double the β cell mass ($p < 0.02$) and islet insulin content ($p < 0.03$) of controls. Next steps include confirming that LKB1 accumulates in the islet β cells in patients and verifying that long-term loss of the tumor suppressor LKB1 is not carcinogenic.	Work unpatented; available for licensing from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the University of Ottawa	Fu, A. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i> ; published online Oct. 6, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2009.08.008 Contact: Robert A. Sreaton, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada e-mail: rob@arc.cheo.ca
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