This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	ATG7 autophagy-related 7 homolog (ATG7)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting ATG7 in adipose tissue could be useful for treating obesity. In mice, animals with adipose tissue-specific deletion of <i>ATG7</i> had lower weight than controls expressing the gene. The knockout mice had less white adipose tissue and more brown adipose tissue than controls. The <i>ATG7</i>-deficient mice also had greater insulin sensitivity and glucose clearance than controls. Next steps include validating the results in human adipocytes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1532 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University	<p>Singh, R. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 12, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39228</p> <p>Contact: Mark J. Czaja, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: mark.czaja@einstein.yu.edu</p>