This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Fas receptor (CD95)	<p>A study in mice and in human cell culture suggests that antagonizing CD95 in adipocytes could help treat obesity. Adipocytes from obesity or type 2 diabetes patients had higher levels of CD95 than adipocytes from nonobese control patients. In mice, animals with <i>Cd95</i> knockout had lower insulin and blood glucose levels and less weight gain on a high-fat diet than wild-type controls. Next steps include developing methods to selectively target CD95 on adipocytes.</p> <p>Argenes Inc. has ARG098, an anti-CD95 mAb, in Phase I testing for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). TopoTarget A/S has APO010, a CD95-binding fusion protein, in Phase I testing for solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1761 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Wueest, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI38388</p> <p>Contact: Daniel Konrad, University Children's Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: daniel.konrad@kispi.uzh.ch</p>