This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Calcium channel, L-type (LTCC)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies showed that activating LTCCs may help treat type 1 diabetes. Growth-arrested, insulin-producing pancreatic β-cells treated with replication-inducing dihydropyridine (DHP) derivatives were able to resume proliferation. Subsequent addition of an LTCC antagonist inhibited expansion. Growth-arrested, insulin-producing pancreatic β-cells treated with glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), which increases cell viability, and DHP had an additive effect on proliferation. Next steps could include optimizing the DHP derivatives for <i>in vivo</i> testing.</p> <p>SciBX 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.187 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Wang, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811848106 Contact: Peter G. Schultz, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: schultz@scripps.edu</p>