This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Diacylglycerol O-acyltransferase-1 (DGAT1; DGAT-1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies identified a bicyclooctane acetic acid derivative of DGAT-1 inhibitors that could help treat obesity. <i>In vitro</i>, the derivative had better potency than existing DGAT-1 inhibitors. In rats, the derivative lowered plasma triacylglycerol levels and inhibited DGAT-1 in both intestinal and adipose tissue. In mice with diet-induced obesity, the compound lowered body weight by 3% compared with that seen using vehicle. Next steps could include testing in other animal models of obesity.</p> <p>Japan Tobacco Inc.'s JTT-553, an oral DGAT-1 inhibitor, is in Phase I testing to treat obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.451 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Birch, A. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 3, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801507v</p> <p>Contact: Alan M. Birch, AstraZeneca plc, Cheshire, U.K. e-mail: alan.birch@astrazeneca.com</p>