This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Type 2 diabetes	Sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 2 (S1PR2)	<p>A study in cell culture, <i>in silico</i> and in mice suggests that S1PR2 could be antagonized to treat type 2 diabetes. In cultured mouse adipocytes, a small interfering RNA knockdown screen identified 126 genes that modulated free fatty acid secretion, a proxy for insulin sensitivity. Computational analysis of genetic and protein interaction networks and tissue-expression data identified <i>S1PR2</i> as the gene with the highest degree of connectedness to known insulin regulators. <i>S1pr2</i> knockout mice fed a high-fat diet had significantly higher serum insulin levels than wild-type controls ($p=0.03$). Next steps could include characterizing other type 2 diabetes biomarkers in <i>S1PR2</i> knockouts and developing selective antagonists of S1PR2.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.578 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	<p>Patents on methods filed by Merck & Co. Inc.; company plans to make methods and data available to Sage, a not-for-profit company spun out of Merck's Rosetta Inpharmatics Inc. subsidiary</p>	<p>Tu, Z. <i>et al. Genome Res.</i>; published online March 8, 2009; doi:10.1101/gr.087890.108 Contact: Eric Schadt, Merck & Co. Inc., Seattle, Wash. e-mail: eric.schadt@gmail.com</p>