This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Peroxisome proliferator- activated receptor- γ (PPARG; PPAR γ)	<p>SAR studies identified a selective PPARγ agonist that could be safer than other PPARγ-targeting compounds for treating diabetes. <i>In vitro</i>, the indole-based agonist with a modified tail incorporating 4-phenylbenzophorine had 80–100 times greater selectivity for PPARγ over PPARα and showed 2–4 times better agonist activity for PPARγ than the marketed drug Avandia rosiglitazone. X-ray cocrystallization of the modified indole compound with PPARγ identified structural properties to support its potency and selectivity for the receptor. Next steps could include testing the agonists in animal models of diabetes. GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Avandia to treat diabetes.</p> <p>At least nine other companies have PPARγ agonists in development stages ranging from clinical to marketed to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.622 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lin, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 20, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801594x</p> <p>Contact: Hsing-Pang Hsieh, National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan e-mail: hphsieh@nhri.org.tw</p> <p>Contact: Su-Ying Wu, same affiliation as above e-mail: suying@nhri.org.tw</p>