This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Glucagon (GCG; GLP1; GLP2); GCG receptor (GCGR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and murine studies suggest that glycosylated analogs of GLP1 could treat diabetes more effectively than GLP1. In Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, a sialyl <i>N</i>-acetylactosamine GLP1 analog agonized GCGR at low nanomolar to high picomolar concentrations. In murine models of diabetes, the analog had better blood glucose-lowering activity than GLP1. The analog was more stable than the parent compound and was a better agonist of GCGR. Next steps could include further optimization of the compound and additional safety and efficacy studies. Byetta exenatide, a GLP1 agonist from Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Eli Lilly and Co., is marketed as an adjunct therapy to treat diabetes.</p> <p>Novo Nordisk A/S's GLP1 analog Victoza liraglutide is in registration to treat diabetes. GLP1 analog taspoglutide (R1583) from partners Roche, Ipsen Group and Teijin Pharma Ltd. is also in Phase III testing to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.660 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Patented by Shionogi & Co. Ltd. and National University Corp. Hokkaido University; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Ueda, T. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online April 10, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja900261g</p> <p>Contact: Kazuyoshi Tomita, Shionogi & Co. Ltd., Osaka, Japan e-mail: kazuyoshi.tomita@shionogi.co.jp</p>