This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Src homology protein tyrosine phosphatase 2 (PTPN11; SHP-2; SHPTP2)	A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that increasing SHP-2 activity could be useful for treating diabetes. In mice receiving a bolus injection of glucose, pancreas-specific knockout of <i>Shp-2</i> led to increased glucose intolerance compared with that seen in wild-type littermates. The <i>Shp-2</i> knockout mice also had lower levels of insulin biosynthesis and insulin secretion from β -cells than wild-type controls. In an insulinoma cell line, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of <i>SHP-2</i> lowered insulin release compared with that seen using scrambled siRNA. Next steps could include exploring the potential of modulating SHP-2 activity in animal models of diabetes.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Zhang, S.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online April 13, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811715106 Contact: Gen-Sheng Feng, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: gffeng@burnham.org
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