This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- γ coactivator 1 α (PPARGC1A; PGC-1 α); twist homolog 1 (TWIST1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting TWIST1 could help treat obesity. <i>In vitro</i> , TWIST1 blocked brown fat mitochondrial metabolism and inhibited PGC-1 α transcriptional activity. In mice, transgenic expression of Twist1 in adipose tissue made the mice susceptible to high fat diet-induced obesity, whereas heterozygous Twist1 knockout mice did not become obese. Next steps include identifying inhibitors of TWIST1. SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.663 Published online April 23, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Pan, D. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online April 2, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.01.051 Contact: Yong-Xu Wang, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: yongxu.wang@umassmed.edu