This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Glucagon receptor (GCGR)	<p>A study in monkeys identified aminothiazole-based GCGR antagonists that could be useful for treating type 2 diabetes. In a monkey model of hyperglucagonemia and hyperglycemia, i.v. delivery of one of the aminothiazole-based GCGR antagonists lowered glucagon-stimulated glycemia compared with that seen in vehicle-treated controls. The GCGR antagonist had a half-life of 314 minutes and its effects were dose-dependent. Next steps could include synthesizing additional GCGR antagonists based on the aminothiazole core.</p> <p>ISIS 325568, a second-generation antisense compound that targets GCGR from Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Johnson & Johnson, is in Phase I testing to treat diabetes.</p> <p>MB09975N, a small molecule GCGR antagonist from Metabasis Therapeutics Inc., is in preclinical testing for diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.793 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Madsen, P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 22, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm8016249</p> <p>Contact: Peter Madsen, Novo Nordisk A/S, Maaloev, Denmark e-mail: pem@novonordisk.com</p>