This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Neuropeptide Y receptor Y5 (NPY5R)	<p>Studies in rodents identified an NPY5R antagonist that could be useful for treating obesity. In a mouse model of diet-induced obesity, 3 mg/kg of the NPY5R antagonist significantly lowered body weight compared with vehicle-treated controls or NPY5R-deficient mice ($p < 0.01$). However, the compound did show cardiovascular side effects in dogs. Next steps include optimizing imidazoline derivatives for better safety.</p> <p>Velneperit, an oral NPY5R antagonist from Shionogi & Co. Ltd., is in Phase II to treat obesity. At least three other companies have compounds targeting NPY receptors in Phase I/II or earlier to treat diabetes and obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.827 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Multiple issued and pending patents covering use in bulimia, obesity and diabetes; unavailable for licensing	<p>Sato, N. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 6, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900110t</p> <p>Contact: Nagaaki Sato, Merck Research Laboratories, Tsukuba, Japan e-mail: nagaaki_sato@merck.com</p>