This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Thyroid disease	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)	<p>A study in rats suggests that agonizing the AMPK pathway in the hypothalamus could help treat hyperthyroidism. In rats, chronic elevation of thyroid hormones led to lower phosphorylation and activity of hypothalamic AMPK pathway proteins than was seen in inactive thyroid hormone controls. In hyperthyroid rats, an AMPK activator or hypothalamus-specific expression of constitutively active AMPK reversed hyperthyroid-associated weight loss, an effect not seen in vehicle-treated or vector controls. Next steps include investigating whether the AMPK pathway is impaired in animal models of obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1093 Published online Sept. 16, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>López, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 29, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2207 Contact: Antonio Vidal-Puig, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: ajv22@cam.ac.uk Contact: Miguel López, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain e-mail: m.lopez@usc.es</p>