This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Leptin receptor (LEPR; CD295)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that delivering leptin to the CNS could help treat type 1 diabetes without the need for insulin. In insulin-deficient mice, intracerebroventricular delivery of leptin improved survival and decreased diabetic-associated metabolic imbalances compared with delivery of phosphate buffered saline. In the leptin-treated mice, circulating and pancreatic glucagon levels were almost normalized. Next steps include testing leptin in other mouse models of diabetes.</p> <p>Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB has a leptin receptor agonist in preclinical testing to treat obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 3(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1181 Published online Oct. 7, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fujikawa, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 20, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1008025107</p> <p>Contact: Roberto Coppari, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: roberto.coppari@utsouthwestern.edu</p>