This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Ghrelin O-Acyltransferase (GOAT)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting GOAT could help treat endocrine disorders including obesity and diabetes. In human cells, a peptide-based GOAT inhibitor prevented production of the ghrelin hormone compared with a control peptide. In wild-type mice, a GOAT inhibitor decreased both serum levels of active ghrelin and diet-induced weight gain and increased insulin response to glucose challenge compared with a control peptide.</p> <p>Next steps include generating synthetic derivatives of the compound.</p> <p>SciBX 3(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1413 Published online Dec. 9, 2010</p>	The Johns Hopkins University holds a patent covering findings; IP licensed to Acylin Therapeutics Inc.	<p>Barnett, B.P. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Nov. 18, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1196154</p> <p>Contact: Philip A. Cole, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: pcole@jhmi.edu</p>