This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity; metabolic syndrome; type 2 diabetes	VEGF-B	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that antagonizing VEGF-B signaling could help treat obesity, metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. In cultured endothelial cells, VEGF-B treatment induced the expression of genes involved in fatty acid transport and increased the uptake of fatty acids compared with mock treatment. Conversely, in muscle, heart and brown adipose tissue from <i>Vegf-b</i> knockout mice, lipid levels were lower than those in tissue from wild-type controls. Next steps include testing the effect of <i>Vegf-b</i> deletion in mouse models of obesity and type 2 diabetes and developing mAbs to inactivate VEGF-B. CSL Ltd. has a preclinical program targeting VEGF-B for metabolic diseases in collaboration with the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Ltd.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.407 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	Patent pending; IP owned by the Ludwig Institute; IP licensed to CSL	<p>Hagberg, C.E. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 14, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08945</p> <p>Contact: Ulf Eriksson, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: ulf.pe.eriksson@ki.se</p>