This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Fat mass and obesity associated (FTO)	<p>X-ray crystallization studies determined the structure of human FTO, which could be useful for developing inhibitors of the FTO protein to help treat obesity. Genomewide association studies have shown that SNPs in FTO are correlated with obesity risk, whereas studies in mice have shown that Fto activity is linked to the development of obesity. The X-ray crystal structure of human FTO complexed with one of its substrates showed that the protein has distinct N- and C-terminal subunits that must interact for proper catalytic activity, as well as a catalytic binding domain in the C-terminal subunit. Next steps include using the structural information to develop FTO inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.467 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Han, Z. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 8, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08921</p> <p>Contact: Jijie Chai, National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing, China e-mail: chaijijie@nibs.ac.cn</p>