This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Deoxyhypusine synthase (DHPS); eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5A (EIF5A)	A study in mice suggests that blocking EIF5A activity by preventing its post-translational modification with hypusine could be useful for treating type 1 diabetes. Hypusine is an unconventional amino acid made by DHPS and then transferred onto a single amino acid of EIF5A. In a mouse model of type 1 diabetes, small interfering RNA knockdown of <i>Eif5a</i> or small molecule inhibition of Dhps preserved islet β cell mass and improved glucose tolerance compared with no treatment. Next steps include testing more drug-like DHPS inhibitors in models of type 1 and type 2 diabetes.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Maier, B. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online May 24, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI38924 Contact: Raghavendra G. Mirmira, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Ind. e-mail: rmirmira@iupui.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.671 Published online June 3, 2010				