This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α (HIF1A; HIF1 α)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that increasing <i>HIF1A</i> expression with iron chelators could help treat type 2 diabetes. Iron chelation increases HIF1A levels by preventing its degradation. In mice on a high-fat diet, the iron chelator Exjade deferasirox improved insulin secretion and glucose tolerance compared with no treatment. In human pancreatic islets, the iron chelator Desferal deferoxamine increased insulin secretion compared with no treatment. Next steps include evaluating the iron chelators in a Phase II trial for metabolic syndrome and diabetes.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Exjade and Desferal to treat chronic iron overload due to blood transfusions.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.672 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Patent pending covering use in metabolic syndrome and diabetes, available for licensing from the Garvan Institute	<p>Cheng, K. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI35846</p> <p>Contact: Jenny E. Gunton, Garvan Institute, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia e-mail: j.gunton@garvan.org.au</p>