This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Mediator complex subunit 1 (MED1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting MED1 in skeletal muscle could help treat obesity or diabetes. Mice with skeletal muscle-specific <i>Med1</i> knockout had greater insulin sensitivity and glucose tolerance and had resistance to high-fat diet-induced obesity compared with wild-type mice. Compared with the skeletal muscle from wild-type mice, the skeletal muscle from the knockout mice showed a switch from fast to slow muscle fibers and increased expression of brown adipose tissue-specific genes, which suggested improving energy expenditure. Next steps could include identifying muscle-specific therapeutics that inhibit MED1.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.674 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Chen, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 17, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1005626107</p> <p>Contact: Robert G. Roeder, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: roeder@rockefeller.edu</p>