This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Obesity	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNR1)	A study in rodents suggests that the peptide hemopressin, a brain-derived inverse agonist of CNR1, could be useful for treating obesity. In rats, intraventricular injection of hemopressin reduced nocturnal feeding compared with mock treatment. In a mouse model of obesity, hemopressin reduced food intake compared with mock treatment. Wild-type mice treated with hemopressin did not show evidence of nausea, food aversion or anxiety compared with mice given a control small molecule inverse agonist of CNR1. Next steps include testing whether long-term hemopressin reduces weight. CNR1 antagonists in clinical development for obesity include 7TM Pharma A/S's TM3387, which is in Phase I testing, and sanofi-aventis Group's AVE1625, which is in Phase II testing. SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.678 Published online June 3, 2010	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Dodd, G.T. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online May 26, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5455-09.2010 Contact: Simon M. Luckman, The University of Manchester, Manchester, U.K. e-mail: simon.luckman@manchester.ac.uk