This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that activating AMPK could improve platelet function in diabetes. AMPK signaling is reduced and platelet function is impaired in type 2 diabetes. In human platelet cells, a pair of kinase inhibitors lowered thrombin-induced platelet aggregation compared with no treatment. In mice with a deleted $\alpha 2$ subunit of AMPK, thrombus stability was lower than in wild-type controls. Next steps include screening for AMPK activity in platelets from healthy and diabetic patients, and determining if AMPK activators improve platelet function.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Randriamboavonjy, V. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online June 17, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2010-04-279612 Contact: Ingrid Fleming, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany e-mail: fleming@em.uni-frankfurt.de
<i>SciBX</i> 3(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.792 Published online July 1, 2010				