This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Metabolic syndrome	Secreted frizzled-related protein 5 (SFRP5)	<p>Studies in cell culture, in mice and in human adipose tissue samples suggest that increasing SFRP5 could help treat metabolic syndrome. In the white adipose tissue of obese mice and in visceral fat biopsies from obese humans, SFRP5 expression was lower than that in normal-weight controls. In obese mice, exogenous SFRP5 reduced fat mass and lipid accumulation in the liver compared with control protein. Next steps include testing the long-term effects of SFRP5 in mouse models of obesity and metabolic syndrome.</p> <p>SciBX 3(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.796 Published online July 1, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Ouchi, N. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online June 17, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1188280 Contact: Kenneth Walsh, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: kxwalsh@bu.edu Contact: Noriyuki Ouchi, same affiliation as above e-mail: nouchi@bu.edu</p>