This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Fibroblast growth factor 19 (FGF19)	<p>A study in mice identified a modified form of FGF19 that could help treat diabetes and obesity. FGF19 is known to lower plasma glucose but can also stimulate potentially carcinogenic hepatocyte proliferation. In mice, an Fgf19 variant with mutations in amino acid residues 38–42 and in the heparin-binding regions did not induce hepatocyte proliferation compared with wild-type Fgf19. In a mouse model of obesity, injection of the modified Fgf19 led to a decrease in plasma glucose levels similar to that seen using wild-type Fgf19. Next steps could include evaluating the potential carcinogenic risk of the modified FGF19 molecules.</p> <p>SciBX 3(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.955 Published online Aug. 12, 2010</p>	Methods patented for treating diabetes using FGF-like polypeptides; licensing status unavailable	<p>Wu, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 26, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1009427107</p> <p>Contact: Yang Li, Amgen Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: yangl@amgen.com</p>