This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Serotonin (5-HT _{1A}) receptor	<p>Mouse studies suggest that HT_{1A} receptor antagonists could help treat obesity. In mice, knockout of the Ht_{1a} receptor in the arcuate nuclei neurons led to lower food intake and body weight than those in mice expressing the receptor. In obese mice, an inhibitor of the Ht_{1a} receptor decreased both food intake and obesity compared with a vehicle control. Next steps include identifying and characterizing genes in the serotonin pathway.</p> <p>SciBX 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.103 Published online Jan. 27, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Yadav, V.K. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 27, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20101940</p> <p>Contact: Gerard Karsenty, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: gk2172@columbia.edu</p>