This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	p38 Mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK; MAPK14); X-box binding protein 1 (XBP1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest p38 MAPK activation in the liver could help treat type 2 diabetes. In obese mice, p38 Mapk activity and Xbp1 nuclear translocation were lower than those in lean mice. Also in the obese mice, adenovirus-mediated expression of MAP kinase kinase 6 (Map2k6) in the liver increased activation of p38 Mapk, Xbp1 nuclear translocation, insulin sensitivity and glucose tolerance compared with adenovirus-mediated expression of a control protein. Next steps include identifying compounds that activate p38 MAPK.</p> <p>SciBX 4(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1043 Published online Sept. 22, 2011</p>	Patent application ready to be filed; licensing status not applicable	<p>Lee, J. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 4, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2449</p> <p>Contact: Umut Ozcan, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: umut.ozcan@childrens.harvard.edu</p>