This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity; type 2 diabetes	IL-1; caspase-1 (CASP1; β -converting enzyme)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that inhibiting CASP1 could help treat obesity and type 2 diabetes. In mice, <i>Casp1</i> deficiency led to lower total fat mass and greater insulin sensitivity than those in wild-type controls. In genetically obese mice, a CASP1 inhibitor increased insulin sensitivity compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include determining the mechanisms that lead to CASP1 activation during fat accumulation.</p> <p>Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s VX-765, a small molecule inhibitor of CASP1, is in Phase II testing to treat epilepsy.</p> <p>SciBX 4(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.11 Published online Jan. 6, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Stienstra, R. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Dec. 1, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2010.11.011</p> <p>Contact: Rinke Stienstra, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre and Nijmegen Institute for Infection, Inflammation and Immunity, Nijmegen, the Netherlands e-mail: r.stienstra@aig.umcn.nl</p>