This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	NLR family pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3; NALP3)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing the NLRP3 inflammasome could help treat obesity-associated inflammation and type 2 diabetes. In mice, <i>Nlrp3</i> deficiency protected against diet-induced loss of insulin sensitivity compared with normal <i>Nlrp3</i> expression. Next steps include studying the potential adverse effects of blocking NLRP3 inflammasome signaling.</p> <p>SciBX 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.131 Published online Feb. 3, 2011</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Vandanmagsar, B. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 9, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2279</p> <p>Contact: Vishwa Deep Dixit, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. e-mail: vishwa.dixit@lsu.edu</p>