This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Metabolic disease	Peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- α (PPARA; PPAR α)	<p>Mouse studies suggest PPARα agonists could help treat cardiomyopathy associated with neutral lipid storage disease. In a mouse model of the disease, <i>Ppara</i> expression in the heart and liver was lower than that in wild-type mice, and mitochondrial function in cardiac tissue was impaired. In the diseased mice, a PPARα agonist reversed mitochondrial dysfunction, restored heart function and prevented premature death compared with no treatment. Next steps include testing approved PPARα agonists in patients with neutral lipid storage disease.</p> <p>At least six companies market PPARα agonists to treat endocrine, metabolic and cardiovascular disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.993 Published online Sept. 8, 2011</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Haemmerle, G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 21, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2439</p> <p>Contact: Rudolf Zechner, University of Graz, Graz, Austria e-mail: rudolf.zechner@uni-graz.at</p>