This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	<i>PTEN</i> (<i>MMAC1</i> ; <i>TEP1</i>)	Human studies suggest <i>PTEN</i> mutations could help predict obesity risk. Twenty-one nondiabetic individuals with loss-of-function <i>PTEN</i> mutations had greater insulin sensitivity and BMIs than healthy subjects with wild-type <i>PTEN</i> . A meta-analysis of published genomics data from healthy individuals identified associations between <i>PTEN</i> SNPs and high plasma levels of fasting insulin and low levels of fasting glucose. Ongoing work includes investigating the mechanisms by which insulin sensitivity contributes to obesity in individuals harboring <i>PTEN</i> mutations.	Unpatented; available for partnering	Pal, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>N. Engl. J. Med.</i> ; published online Sept. 13, 2012; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1113966 Contact: Anna L. Gloyn, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: anna.gloyn@dr1.ox.ac.uk
<i>SciBX</i> 5(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1005 Published online Sept. 27, 2012				