This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Transient receptor potential vanilloid 4 (TRPV4; VRL2)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests antagonizing TRPV4 could help treat obesity and type 2 diabetes. In mice fed a high-fat diet, <i>Trpv4</i> knockout increased energy expenditure and glucose tolerance and decreased weight gain and insulin resistance compared with no knockout. In mouse models of diet-induced obesity, a TRPV4 antagonist increased glucose tolerance and decreased insulin sensitivity compared with vehicle. Next steps at Ember Therapeutics Inc. include running a screen to identify lead TRPV4 antagonists.</p> <p>SciBX 5(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1052 Published online Oct. 11, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; licensed to Ember Therapeutics	<p>Ye, L. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 28, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.08.034</p> <p>Contact: Bruce M. Spiegelman, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bruce_spiegelman@dfci.harvard.edu</p>