This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetic cardiomyopathy	Ceramide synthase 5 (CERS5; LASS5)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest antagonizing CERS5 could be useful for treating diabetic cardiomyopathy. In a mouse model of type 2 diabetes, overfeeding led to greater cardiac accumulation of myristate-bearing ceramides, autophagy and cardiac hypertrophy compared with those seen in healthy controls. In a cell culture assay of cardiac hypertrophy, <i>CERS5</i> knockdown decreased cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, and <i>CERS5</i> overexpression or treatment with myristate worsened cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, compared with vehicle or vector treatment. Next steps include characterizing the effect of <i>Cers5</i> deletion on diabetic cardiomyopathy in mice.</p> <p>SciBX 5(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1086 Published online Oct. 18, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Russo, S.B. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 1, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI63888 Contact: L. Ashley Cowart, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C. e-mail: cowartl@muscc.edu</p>