This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1R; GLP1R); estrogen receptor	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a stable GLP-1-estrogen conjugate that could help treat type 2 diabetes. In mice, the conjugate increased weight loss compared with GLP-1 alone and led to improved insulin sensitivity and glycemic control. In mice, estradiol or an unstable GLP-1-estrogen conjugate induced hypertrophic activity in the uterus and stimulated the growth of tumor xenografts, whereas the stable GLP-1-estrogen conjugate did not. Next steps include additional safety studies to rule out an oncogenic effect on cells that express both GLP-1R and estrogen receptor.</p> <p>Marcadia Biotech Inc., which was acquired by Roche in 2010, partially funded the study.</p> <p>SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1207 Published online Nov. 29, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; exclusively licensed to Roche	<p>Finan, B. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 11, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.3009 Contact: Matthias H. Tschöp, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Munich, Germany e-mail: matthias.tschop@helmholtz-muenchen.de Contact: Richard D. DiMarchi, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. e-mail: rdimarch@indiana.edu</p>