This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity; diabetes; metabolic syndrome	Phosphodiesterase-4 (PDE-4)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest inhibiting PDE-4 could help treat obesity and type 2 diabetes. In mice fed a high-fat diet, a PDE-4 inhibitor increased metabolic activity and lowered blood glucose levels and weight gain compared with vehicle. In cell culture, the inhibitor increased activity of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), a regulator of metabolic pathways involved in energy utilization, compared with vehicle. Next steps include clinical testing of PDE-4 inhibitors in metabolic indications. At least 15 companies have PDE-4 inhibitors in development or marketed for various indications such as inflammation and autoimmune diseases.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Park, S.-J. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Feb. 3, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.01.017 Contact: Jay H. Chung, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: chungj@nhlbi.nih.gov
SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.179 Published online Feb. 16, 2012				