This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Natriuretic peptide precursor A (NPPA; ANP); B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP; NPPB)	<p>A study in mice suggests ANP or BNP might increase energy expenditure to help treat obesity. In mice, animals with cold-induced activation of brown fat had greater transcription of <i>Anp</i> and <i>Bnp</i> in the heart and higher levels of Bnp in the plasma than mice at room temperature. Also in mice, infusion of Bnp increased both expression of brown adipocyte markers in adipose tissue and energy expenditure compared with saline infusion. Next steps could include testing the effects of BNP infusion on brown fat levels and energy expenditure in humans.</p> <p>Johnson & Johnson markets Natrecor nesiritide, a recombinant BNP, for heart failure.</p> <p>Palatin Technologies Inc.'s PL-3994, a long-acting ANP receptor agonist, is in Phase II testing for congestive heart failure and hypertension.</p> <p>SciBX 5(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.205 Published online Feb. 23, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Bordicchia, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 6, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI59701</p> <p>Contact: Sheila Collins, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, Orlando, Fla. e-mail: scollins@sanfordburnham.org</p>