This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	G protein-coupled receptor 120 (O3FAR1; GPR120)	<p>Mouse and genetic studies suggest defects in GPR120 signaling increase susceptibility to obesity and obesity-related pathologies. <i>GPR120</i>-deficient mice showed greater susceptibility to high-fat diet-induced obesity, glucose intolerance, insulin resistance and fatty liver than wild-type controls. In a cohort of 6,942 obese individuals and 7,654 control subjects of European descent, an R270H missense mutation in <i>GPR120</i> that inhibited its signaling was significantly associated with obesity ($p=8\times 10^{-6}$). Next steps include determining why subjects carrying the R270H mutation develop obesity-associated pathologies.</p> <p>SciBX 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.255 Published online March 8, 2012</p>	Patent applications filed covering GPR120 agonists and activators of GPR120 signaling; available for licensing	<p>Ichimura, A. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 19, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature10798 Contact: Gozoh Tsujimoto, Kyoto University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: gtsuji@pharm.kyoto-u.ac.jp Contact: Philippe Froguel, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: p.froguel@imperial.ac.uk</p>