This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Metabolic syndrome; obesity	Fructokinase (ketoheokinase; KHK)	<p>Mouse studies suggest antagonizing the C isoform of fructokinase could help treat metabolic syndrome and obesity. <i>Fructokinase</i> knockout mice fed a high-fructose diet had lower fatty acid metabolite levels, epididymal fat and weight gain compared with wild-type controls fed a similar diet. Fructose-fed mice that lacked the universally expressed A isoform of <i>fructokinase</i> but still expressed the liver-, intestine- and kidney-specific C isoform had higher fatty acid metabolite levels, epididymal fat and body weight than wild-type controls. Next steps include optimizing antagonists of the C isoform of <i>fructokinase</i> and testing them in mouse models of metabolic syndrome and obesity.</p> <p>Johnson & Johnson has fructokinase antagonists in preclinical development for metabolic indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.339 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Ishimoto, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 27, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1119908109</p> <p>Contact: Richard J. Johnson, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: richard.johnson@ucdenver.edu</p>