This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Metabolic syndrome	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest the aspirin metabolite salicylate activates AMPK to improve serum lipid levels and treat metabolic disease. <i>In vitro</i>, salicylate directly activated AMPK at low mM concentrations. In mice, injection of salicylate increased AMPK activation and decreased serum fatty acids compared with vehicle injection. Next steps include identifying which effects of salicylate are mediated by AMPK and which are mediated by cyclooxygenase (COX).</p> <p>SciBX 5(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.467 Published online May 3, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hawley, S.A. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online April 19, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1215327 Contact: D. Grahame Hardie, University of Dundee, Dundee, U.K. e-mail: d.g.hardie@dundee.ac.uk</p>