This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Metabolic syndrome; obesity	MicroRNA-208a (miR-208a)	<p>Studies in mice suggest antagonizing miR-208a could help treat metabolic syndrome and obesity. In a mouse model of diet-induced obesity, an oligonucleotide antagonist of miR-208a increased glucose tolerance and decreased visceral fat and weight gain compared with an untargeted oligonucleotide control. Next steps include preclinical development of the miR-208a antagonist in preparation for metabolic disease trials.</p> <p>miRagen Therapeutics Inc. and Servier have partnered to develop antimiR-208, the preclinical compound used in this study, for cardiovascular and metabolic indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.469 Published online May 3, 2012</p>	Patent pending; licensed to miRagen Therapeutics	<p>Grueter, C.E. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online April 27, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.03.029</p> <p>Contact: Eric N. Olson, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: eric.olson@utsouthwestern.edu</p>