This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Bone morphogenetic protein 8b (BMP8B)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests BMP8B could act both peripherally and centrally to help treat obesity. In brown adipocytes stimulated with norepinephrine, BMP8B led to a greater lipolytic response than no treatment. In mice, intracerebroventricular delivery of BMP8B increased thermogenic gene expression, core body temperature and weight loss compared with delivery of vehicle. Next steps include developing an assay to detect BMP8B in serum and identifying the relevant receptor.</p> <p>SciBX 5(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.575 Published online May 31, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Whittle, A.J. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online May 11, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.02.066 Contact: Antonio Vidal-Puig, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: ajv22@medschl.cam.ac.uk Contact: Andrew J. Whittle, same affiliation as above e-mail: ajw232@cam.ac.uk</p>