This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Ghrelin receptor (GHSR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies identified a peptide antagonist of GHSR that could help treat obesity. An <i>in vitro</i> screen of a cDNA display library identified the peptide. In fasting mice, i.v. delivery of the peptide decreased food intake compared with vehicle. Next steps include improving the peptide's potency.</p> <p>AEZS-123, a GHSR antagonist from Aeterna Zentaris Inc., is in preclinical development for obesity.</p> <p>EX-1350, a GHSR antagonist from Elixir Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical development for diabetes and obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 5(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.705 Published online July 12, 2012</p>	Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Ueno, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 20, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1203561109 Contact: Takafumi Sakai, Saitama Industrial Technology Center, Saitama, Japan e-mail: tsakai@mail.saitama-u.ac.jp</p>