This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Unknown	<p>Rat studies suggest antidiabetic prodrugs engineered to release nitric oxide (NO) could reduce cardiovascular risks associated with treatment. In nonfasted diabetic rats, the prodrugs, synthesized by conjugating NO-releasing chemical groups to the antidiabetic drugs nateglinide or meglitinide, showed anti-hyperglycemic activity comparable to that of the parent drugs. In the rat model, a lead nateglinide-derived prodrug triggered NO-induced vascular relaxation and led to a sustained decrease in blood pressure over three hours compared with no changes for vehicle. Next steps could include testing the prodrugs in other animal models of diabetes.</p> <p>Novo Nordisk A/S and Shionogi & Co. Ltd. market PrandiMet, a combination of repaglinide, a short-acting β cell-stimulating meglitinide and metformin, to treat diabetes.</p> <p>Novo Nordisk, Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma Co. Ltd. and Shionogi market NovoNorm, a short-acting β cell-stimulating meglitinide, to treat diabetes.</p> <p>Novartis AG and Astellas Pharma Inc. market Starlix nateglinide to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.951 Published online Sept. 13, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kaur, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 23, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm300997w Contact: Edward E. Knaus, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada e-mail: knaus@ualberta.ca</p>