This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Fibronectin type III domain containing 5 (FNDC5; irisin)	A study in mice and in patient serum identified irisin as a hormone that may help treat obesity and type 2 diabetes. In mice and humans, exercise led to increased blood levels of irisin, which is produced by cleavage of the muscle cell-expressed membrane protein FNDC5. In mice, adenoviral-mediated FNDC5 expression increased levels of irisin in the blood and the conversion of white fat to brown fat and decreased weight gain compared with adenoviral control. Next steps include studying a stabilized version of irisin in the mouse models and identifying irisin's receptor.	Patent application filed; licensed to Ember Therapeutics	Boström, P. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Jan. 11, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature10777 Contact: Bruce M. Spiegelman, Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bruce_spiegelman@dfci.harvard.edu
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