This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Solute carrier family 30 zinc transporter member 8 (SLC30A8; ZNT8)	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest stimulating pancreatic SLC30A8 could help treat diabetes. Humans with the <i>SLC30A8</i> rs13266634 allele have an elevated risk of developing type 2 diabetes. In mice, β cell-specific knockout of <i>Slc30a8</i> impaired glucose tolerance and led to low peripheral insulin levels compared with no knockout despite elevated insulin secretion from islet cells. In the knockout mice and in humans with the rs13266634 allele, insulin clearance by the liver was greater than that seen in mice with no knockout or no risk allele. Next steps include investigating how zinc impacts insulin clearance by the liver.</p> <p>SciBX 6(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1128 Published online Oct. 17, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Tamaki, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 24, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI68807</p> <p>Contact: Yoshio Fujitani, Juntendo University Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: fujitani@juntendo.ac.jp</p>