This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNR1)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting CNR1 could help treat hyperinsulinemia in type 2 diabetes. In cultured rat pancreatic β cells, a CNR1 antagonist suppressed endocannabinoid-induced insulin secretion compared with a control compound. In mice, knockout of <i>Cnr1</i> inhibited endocannabinoid-induced insulin secretion in pancreatic islets. Next steps include determining the underlying mechanism in mouse models of diabetes and patient samples and developing CNR1 antagonists with improved pharmacological properties. SciBX 6(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1256 Published online Nov. 14, 2013	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Malenczyk, K. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Oct. 2, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.478354 Contact: Agnieszka Dobrzyn, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw, Poland e-mail: a.dobrzyn@nencki.gov.pl Contact: Tibor Harkany, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: tibor.harkany@ki.se