This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Peroxisome proliferation- activated receptor- δ (PPARD; PPAR δ)	<p>Mouse studies suggest a form of phosphatidylcholine could help treat obesity. Compared with healthy controls, mouse models of diet-induced obesity had decreased serum levels of PC(18:0/18:1), a form of phosphatidylcholine that contains 2 18-carbon acyl chains and 1 acyl chain double bond. In healthy mice, signaling between Ppard in the liver and PC(18:0/18:1) in serum regulated serum triglycerides and fatty acid uptake in muscle cells. In mouse models of obesity, PC(18:0/18:1) decreased fasting serum levels of triglycerides, free fatty acids and glucose and increased glucose tolerance compared with vehicle. Planned work includes identifying and testing PC(18:0/18:1) mimics to treat obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 6(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1258 Published online Nov. 14, 2013</p>	Patent application filed by Harvard University; unlicensed	<p>Liu, S. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 23, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12710 Contact: Chih-Hao Lee, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass. e-mail: clee@hsph.harvard.edu</p>