This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Serotonin (5-HT _{2C}) receptor	<p>Mouse studies suggest agonizing the 5-HT_{2C} receptor on proopiomelanocortin (POMC) neurons could help treat diabetes. In mice, knockout of the gene encoding the 5-HT_{2C} receptor specifically in POMC neurons increased diet-induced obesity, blood glucose levels and glucagon levels compared with no alteration and led to hyperinsulinemia. Conditional knockout of the gene in POMC neurons in adult mice caused the same changes in metabolic activity. Next steps include developing a 5-HT_{2C} receptor agonist that acts specifically on the neuronal subtype.</p> <p>SciBX 6(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1352 Published online Dec. 12, 2013</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Berglund, E.D. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 1, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI70338 Contact: Joel K. Elmquist, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: joel.elmquist@utsouthwestern.edu Contact: Yong Xu, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: yongx@bcm.edu</p>