This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity; diabetes	Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1R; GLP1R); glucagon receptor (GCGR); glucose-dependent insulintropic polypeptide receptor (GIP receptor)	<p>Mouse studies suggest peptides that agonize GLP1R, GCGR and GIP receptor could be used to treat obesity and diabetes. In a mouse model of obesity with diabetes or in mice fed a high-fat diet, a peptide that activated all three receptors decreased plasma glucose levels and increased insulin levels after glucose challenge compared with peptide hormones for individual receptors. In the high-fat diet-fed model, the peptide induced weight loss and decreased overall glucose exposure compared with saline. Next steps could include optimizing the pharmacology of the peptide.</p> <p>At least six companies market agonists for GLP1R and GCGR to treat cardiovascular or endocrine/metabolic disease.</p> <p>SciBX 6(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1390 Published online Dec. 19, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Gault, V.A. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 28, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.512046</p> <p>Contact: Nigel Irwin, University of Ulster, Londonderry, U.K. e-mail: n.irwin@ulster.ac.uk</p>