This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Obesity; neurology	Diacylglycerol lipase- α (DAGLA)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified a selective inhibitor of DAGLA that could help treat obesity or neurodegenerative diseases. <i>In silico</i> modeling aided design of a tetrahydrolipstatin-based inhibitor of DAGLA that inhibited the enzyme with nanomolar potency and was selective over other serine hydrolases <i>in vitro</i> . In cultured human neuroblastoma cells, the inhibitor decreased DAGLA activity compared with vehicle. Ongoing studies include improving potency and selectivity of the inhibitor and showing safety and activity in animals.	Findings unpatented; not yet available for licensing	Baggelaar, M.P. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Oct. 31, 2013; doi:10.1002/anie.201306295 Contact: Mario van der Stelt, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands e-mail: m.van.der.stelt@chem.leidenuniv.nl
SciBX 6(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1402 Published online Dec. 19, 2013				