This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Inhibitor of κ -light polypeptide gene enhancer in B cells kinase- ϵ (IKBKE; IKK- ϵ); TANK-binding kinase 1 (TBK1)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest the generic drug amlexanox could help treat obesity and obesity-related metabolic disorders such as diabetes. In mice fed a high-fat diet, <i>Ikbke</i> and <i>Tbk1</i> expression was greater than that in mice fed a normal diet. <i>In vitro</i> dose-response studies showed that amlexanox inhibited IKBKE and TBK1 with IC_{50} values of 1–2 μM. In mouse models for diet-induced obesity, amlexanox increased insulin sensitivity and decreased both hepatic steatosis and adipose tissue inflammation compared with vehicle. Next steps could include clinical trials to evaluate amlexanox in patients. Amlexanox is a generic drug marketed to treat aphthous ulcers and asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.216 Published online March 7, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Reilly, S.M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 10, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3082</p> <p>Contact: Alan R. Saltiel, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: saltiel@umich.edu</p>