This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Free fatty acid receptor 1 (FFAR1; GPR40)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified an alkyne series of FFAR1 agonists that could help treat type 2 diabetes. In healthy mice, an alkyne-based FFAR1 agonist with polar substituents on the terminal phenyl ring was orally bioavailable and increased glucose tolerance at least as much as the marketed type 2 diabetes drug Glactiv sitagliptin. Next steps include testing the compounds in rodent models of diabetes.</p> <p>Connexios Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. has FFAR1 agonists including CNX-011-67 in preclinical testing to treat diabetes.</p> <p>Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s FFAR1 agonist, TAK-875, is in Phase III testing for the indication.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. and Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market the dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitor Glactiv sitagliptin to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.87 Published online Jan. 31, 2013</p>	Patent application filed covering compounds; available for licensing	<p>Christiansen, E. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Jan. 8, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm301470a</p> <p>Contact: Trond Ulven, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark e-mail: ulven@sdu.dk</p>