This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Activin A receptor type 1C (ACVR1C; ALK7)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting ALK7 in adipose tissue could help treat obesity. In mice with adipose tissue-specific <i>Alk7</i> deletion, high-fat diet-induced weight gain was lower and energy expenditure was greater than those in mice with normal <i>Alk7</i> expression. In mice with an <i>Alk7</i> mutation that rendered the protein sensitive to a competitive ATP inhibitor, the inhibitor decreased high-fat diet-induced weight gain compared with vehicle control. Next steps include elucidating the role of ALK7 in human adipocytes. SciBX 7(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1098 Published online Sept. 25, 2014	Findings patented; licensed by Acceleron Pharma Inc.	Guo, T. <i>et al. eLife</i>; published online Aug. 26, 2014; doi:10.7554/eLife.03245 Contact: Carlos F. Ibanez, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: carlos.ibanez@ki.se