This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	G protein-coupled receptor 119 (GPR119)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest gordonoside F could help treat obesity and diabetes. In a human cell line expressing human GPR119, gordonoside F, a steroid glycoside derived from the <i>Hoodia gordonii</i> herb, activated the receptor. In normal rat islet cells, but not in <i>Gpr119</i>-deficient islets, gordonoside F increased glucose-stimulated insulin secretion compared with vehicle. In wild-type mice, but not in <i>Grp119</i>-deficient mice, gordonoside F increased glucose tolerance and decreased food intake. Next steps include making structural modifications to gordonoside F to improve potency. CymaBay Therapeutics Inc. has the GPR119 agonist MBX-2982 in Phase II testing to treat diabetes. Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. has the GPR119 agonist DS-8500 in Phase II testing to treat diabetes. At least three other companies have GPR119 agonists in Phase I or earlier testing.</p> <p>SciBX 7(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1208 Published online Oct. 23, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Zhang, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 22, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1324130111</p> <p>Contact: Xin Xie, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Shanghai, China e-mail: xxie@simm.ac.cn</p>