This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal disease	Angiopoietin-like 4 (ANGPTL4); integrin $\alpha_v\beta_5$	<p>Rat studies suggest ANGPTL4 variants that selectively bind to integrin $\alpha_v\beta_5$ could help prevent proteinuria in nephrotic syndrome. Proteinuria and hypertriglyceridemia are hallmarks of nephrotic syndrome but have not been functionally linked. In rat models of a precursor phase of nephrotic syndrome, <i>Angptl4</i> overexpression in adipose tissue increased plasma levels of Angptl4, which decreased proteinuria but also increased hypertriglyceridemia, compared with normal <i>Angptl4</i> expression. In the same models, a recombinant, mutant form of ANGPTL4 that did not interact with lipoprotein lipase (Lpl) but retained its interaction with $\alpha_v\beta_5$ on renal cells decreased proteinuria compared with wild-type ANGPTL4 without raising triglyceride levels. Ongoing studies include pharmacokinetic studies of ANGPTL4 mutants and scaling up production of the proteins for preclinical toxicity studies.</p> <p>SciBX 7(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.123 Published online Jan. 30, 2014</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of ANGPTL4 mutants in proteinuric disorders; available for licensing from the UAB Research Foundation</p> <p>Contact: Deborah J. Bidanset-Ponder, UAB Research Foundation, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: debbie@uab.edu</p>	<p>Clement, L.C. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3396</p> <p>Contact: Sumant S. Chugh, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: chugh@uab.edu</p>