This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Metabolic disease	Unknown	<p>Studies in cell culture and mice suggest β-aminoisobutyric acid could be useful for treating metabolic disease. β-Aminoisobutyric acid is secreted into the bloodstream by muscles during exercise. In a human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell model of adipocyte differentiation, β-aminoisobutyric acid increased differentiation into brown adipose tissue compared with vehicle control. In mice, β-aminoisobutyric acid-treated drinking water improved glucose tolerance and decreased body fat compared with untreated drinking water. Next steps could include testing β-aminoisobutyric acid in mouse models of obesity and type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 7(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.174 Published online Feb. 13, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Roberts, L.D. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Jan. 7, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2013.12.003 Contact: Robert E. Gerszten, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rgerszten@partners.org</p>