This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Lactadherin (MFGE8; HMFG); integrin $\alpha_v\beta_5$; integrin $\alpha_v\beta_3$ (CD51/CD61)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting MFGE8 could help reduce fat uptake and treat obesity. In <i>Mfge8</i> knockout mice fed a high-fat diet, insulin sensitivity increased and weight gain and total body fat decreased compared with what was seen in wild-type mice fed a high-fat diet. In mice treated with recombinant Mfge8, injection of antibodies blocking the Mfge8 receptors integrin α_v or integrins β_5 or β_3 decreased serum, hepatic and enterocyte triglyceride contents compared with control antibody. Next steps include developing antibodies against human MFGE8 and investigating local and systemic integrin $\alpha_v\beta_5$ inhibition in mouse models of obesity. SciBX 7(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.175 Published online Feb. 13, 2014	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	Khalifeh-Soltani, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3450 Contact: Kamran Atabai, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: kamran.atabai@ucsf.edu