This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	CD40; tumor necrosis factor receptor- associated factor 6 (TRAF6)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting CD40 signaling through the TRAF6 adaptor protein could help treat metabolic disorders. In a mouse model of diet-induced obesity, selective mutation of Cd40 binding sites specific for Traf2, Traf3 and Traf5 adaptor proteins increased adipose tissue inflammation, insulin resistance and steatosis, and mutation of Cd40 binding sites for Traf6 or a small molecule inhibitor of the Cd40- Traf6 interaction decreased metabolic dysfunctions compared with no CD40 mutation or with vehicle. Next steps include testing the small molecule inhibitor in large animal studies.</p> <p>SciBX 7(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.226 Published online Feb. 27, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Chatzigeorgiou, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 3, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1400419111</p> <p>Contact: Esther Lutgens, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: e.lutgens@amc.uva.nl</p> <p>Contact: Triantafyllos Chavakis, Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany e-mail: triantafyllos.chavakis@uniklinikum-dresden.de</p> <p>Contact: Andrew V. Schally, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Miami, Fla. e-mail: andrew.schally@va.gov</p>