This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Contraception; infertility	Folate receptor 4δ (FOLR4)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest FOLR4-targeting compounds could be useful as fertility treatments or contraceptives. A screen using epithelial cells that express mouse oocyte genes identified Folr4 as a surface receptor for izumo sperm-egg fusion (Izumo1), a protein shown to maintain fertility in male mice. In <i>in vitro</i> fertilization assays, anti-Folr4 antibodies blocked fertilization. Folr4-deficient female mice were infertile despite normal growth and natural mating behavior. Next steps include exploring the role of IZUMO1 and FOLR4 in human fertilization and looking for a commercial partner.	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute Contact: Ross Rounsevell, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, U.K. e-mail: rr10@sanger.ac.uk	Bianchi, E. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online April 16, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13203 Contact: Gavin J. Wright, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, U.K. e-mail: gw2@sanger.ac.uk
SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.559 Published online May 15, 2014				