This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	IL-4 (BSF1); IL-13	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing IL-4 and IL-13 signaling could help treat obesity. In mice, knocking out <i>Il-4</i> and <i>Il-13</i> decreased cold-induced thermogenic activity and remodeling of white adipose tissue into beige and brown adipose tissues compared with no alteration. In mice fed a high-fat diet, IL-4 injections increased beige fat mass and decreased both overall body mass and fat mass compared with vehicle injection. In obese mice, IL-4 injections improved glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity. Next steps include identifying additional cell types and signaling networks that are important for regulating the generation of beige and brown adipose tissues.</p> <p>SciBX 7(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.767 Published online July 10, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Qiu, Y. <i>et al. Cell</i>; Published online July 5, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.03.066 Contact: Ajay Chawla, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: ajay.chawla@ucsf.edu</p>