This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cushing's disease; cardiovascular disease; endocrine/ metabolic disease	Hydroxysteroid 11 β dehydrogenase 1 (HSD11B1; HSD1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest antagonizing HSD1 could be useful for preventing toxicity caused by glucocorticoid therapy or for treating Cushing's disease. Glucocorticoids are used to treat a variety of inflammatory and metabolic disorders, and patients with Cushing's disease who endogenously overproduce glucocorticoids develop obesity and type 2 diabetes and have increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity. In mice, <i>Hsd1</i> deletion prevented corticosterone-induced elevation of fasting insulin and glucose levels, systolic blood pressure, hepatic triglyceride levels and adiposity. Next steps could include testing HSD1 inhibitors as an adjunct to glucocorticoid therapy in a range of disorders.</p> <p>At least six companies have HSD1 inhibitors in Phase II or earlier testing to treat diabetes or glaucoma.</p> <p>SciBX 7(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.805 Published online July 17, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Morgan, S.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 2, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1323681111</p> <p>Contact: Jeremy W. Tomlinson, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, U.K. e-mail: j.w.tomlinson@bham.ac.uk</p>