This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Complement factor D (CFD; adipsin)	<p>Studies in mice and patient samples suggest increasing adipsin levels could help treat type 2 diabetes and maintain β cell function. In mice fed a high-fat diet for 16 weeks, <i>adipsin</i> knockout impaired glucose tolerance but did not affect insulin sensitivity. In diabetic mice, adenovirus-mediated adipsin expression in the liver improved glucose homeostasis and increased insulin secretion compared with expression of a control protein. Patients with type 2 diabetes and β cell failure had significantly lower levels of <i>adipsin</i> mRNA in adipose tissue and lower levels of circulating adipsin in serum than patients with type 2 diabetes without β cell failure ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include evaluating the antidiabetic effects of recombinant adipsin in mouse models of diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 7(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.893 Published online Aug. 7, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Office of Research and Technology Ventures	<p>Lo, J.C. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online July 3, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.06.005</p> <p>Contact: Bruce M. Spiegelman, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bruce_spiegelman@dfci.harvard.edu</p>