

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that blocking ACE could be useful for treating diabetes and obesity. Mice lacking ACE displayed greater energy expenditure related to increased metabolism of fatty acids in the liver than was seen in wild-type mice. Also, compared with wild-type mice, the ACE-deficient mice weighed 20% less ($p < 0.01$) and had 50% less body fat ($p < 0.001$). A glucose tolerance test revealed that mice lacking ACE cleared glucose more rapidly than did wild-type mice. Next steps include testing the effects of lowered ACE activity in humans.</p> <p>No fewer than 10 companies have ACE inhibitors for various indications in development or on the market.</p>	Not patented; unlicensed	<p>Jayasooriya, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 28, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0802690105</p> <p>Contact: Derek A. Denton, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: ddenton@unimelb.edu.au</p> <p>Contact: Michael L. Mathai, same affiliation as above e-mail: michael.mathai@floreys.edu.au</p>