

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Endocrine disease | | | | |
| Diabetes | T cell receptor (TCR) | A mouse study suggests that antagonizing a conserved TCR α -chain may be useful for preventing type 1 diabetes. A series of backcross studies showed that mice with a specific α -chain transgene had higher expression of insulin autoantibodies than mice lacking the transgene. Next steps include characterizing the specific α -chain segment associated with insulin autoantibody secretion and developing techniques to inhibit its function. | Not patented; licensing status not applicable | Kobayashi, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online July 14, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0801648105 Contact: George S. Eisenbarth, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: George.Eisenbarth@uchsc.edu |