This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Dopamine D2 receptor	<p>Studies in volunteers suggest that enhancing dopaminergic activity in the striatum could help treat obesity in a subset of individuals who carry the TaqIA risk allele. Carriers of at least one TaqIA A1 risk allele have 30–40% fewer dopamine D2 receptors than those with two A2 alleles. In volunteers receiving a chocolate milkshake, risk allele carriers showed lower striatal neural response to food reward than noncarriers. The lower striatal activity was significantly associated with a higher body mass index ($p < 0.001$). Next steps include validating the association between blunted striatal response and obesity by monitoring these two variables over several years in cohorts of lean adolescents who may be at high risk of future weight gain.</p> <p>SciBX 1(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.947 Published online Oct. 30, 2008</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Stice, E. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 16, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1161550 Contact: Eric Stice, Oregon Research Institute, Eugene, Ore. e-mail: estice@ori.org</p>