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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	CD36 molecule (thrombospondin receptor) (SCARB3; FAT; CD36)	A study in mice suggests that intestinal SCARB3 could be targeted to treat obesity. SCARB3 plays a role in transporting long-chain fatty acids such as oleic acid into intestinal epithelium cells. Compared with wild-type controls, SCARB3 knockout mice showed less duodenal absorption of oleic acid and less food-induced production of oleoylethanolamide, a metabolite of oleic acid that signals satiety. A duodenal infusion of a lipid cocktail lowered food intake in wild-type mice but failed to do so in SCARB3 knockout mice. Next steps include characterizing the feeding behavior of SCARB3 knockouts and developing antagonists of oleoylethanolamide degradation.	Unpatented; earlier patents on modulating oleoylethanolamide to regulate appetite available for licensing from the University of California	Schwartz, G.J. *et al. Cell Met.*; published online Oct. 7, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2008.08.005 **Contact:** Daniele Piomelli, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: piomelli@uci.edu

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