

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)	A sulfonamide prodrug of generic metformin could be useful for reducing the daily dosage of the drug and decreasing gastrointestinal side effects in type 2 diabetes patients. In rats, the prodrug showed 64.5% oral bioavailability compared with 43% for metformin ($p=0.001$). Ongoing studies are evaluating the safety profile and pharmacological properties of the new compound. SciBX 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1009 Published online June 25, 2009	Patent application (20095208) filed in Finland covering metformin prodrugs and their use in treating type 2 diabetes; licensed to an undisclosed partner	Huttunen, K.M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 12, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900274q Contact: Kristiina M. Huttunen, University of Kuopio, Kuopio, Finland e-mail: Kristiina.Huttunen@uku.fi