

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Leptin receptor (LEPR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that boosting LEPR activity on proopiomelanocortin (POMC) neurons could help prevent diabetes and obesity. In <i>Lepr</i>-deficient obese and diabetic mice, animals with <i>Pomc</i>-specific overexpression of <i>Lepr</i> had lower food intake and body weight than controls. Mice with <i>Pomc</i>-specific overexpression of <i>Lepr</i> also showed greater physical activity and insulin sensitivity and normalized blood glucose levels compared with controls. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating compounds that target POMC-specific LEPR.</p> <p>Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. has a combination of the amylin analog pramlintide and the leptin analog metreleptin in Phase II testing for obesity. Biovitrum AB has an LEPR agonist in preclinical development for obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1011 Published online June 25, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Huo, L. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online June 2, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2009.05.003</p> <p>Contact: Christian Bjørbaek, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: cbjorbae@bidmc.harvard.edu</p>