

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNR1)	<p>A study in mice identified a selective CNR1 inverse agonist that could be useful for treating obesity. In a mouse model of diet-induced obesity, daily oral doses of a CNR1 inverse agonist produced a dose-dependent decrease in food consumption and body weight compared with vehicle treatment. A 1 mg/kg a day oral dose of the inverse agonist lowered food consumption and body weight at rates comparable to those for the CNR1 inverse agonist Acomplia rimonabant. Next steps include developing polar analogs of the identified CNR1 inverse agonists that do not penetrate the blood brain barrier.</p> <p>Acomplia, from sanofi-aventis Group, was marketed in multiple countries outside the U.S. to treat obesity before being withdrawn last year following a recommendation by the EMEA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use because of serious CNS side effects.</p> <p>At least eight companies, including sanofi-aventis, have CNR1 antagonists in Phase II or earlier to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1046 Published online July 9, 2009</p>	Patent pending for use in metabolic syndrome; licensed to an undisclosed company	<p>Wu, C.-H. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 16, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900471u</p> <p>Contact: Kak-Shan Shia, National Health Research Institutes, Zhunan Town, Miaoli County, Taiwan e-mail: ksshia@nhri.org.tw</p>