This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver inflammation; hepatic steatosis	Peroxisome proliferation- activated receptor- α (PPARA; PPAR α)	Studies in mice suggest that 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-<i>sn</i>-glycerol-3-phosphocholine (16:0/18:1-GPC) is a ligand for PPARα and could help treat inflammation. In mice, delivery of the ligand through the portal vein increased PPARα-dependent gene expression and decreased hepatic steatosis. Next steps could include testing delivery of the ligand in other animal models of hepatic steatosis. At least four companies have PPARα agonists in clinical testing for dyslipidemia or diabetes. SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1183 Published online Aug. 6, 2009	Patent application filed by Washington University in St. Louis; unlicensed; licensing availability undisclosed	Chakravarthy, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online July 30, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.05.036 Contact: Clay F. Semenkovich, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: csemenko@wustl.edu