

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| Endocrine disease | | | | |
| Type 2 diabetes; obesity | Mast cells | A study in human tissue and mice suggests that antagonizing mast cell activation could prevent obesity and type 2 diabetes. Adipose tissue from obese humans had higher levels of macrophages and mast cells than adipose tissue from healthy controls. Mice treated with inhibitors of mast cell activation had less weight gain on a high-fat diet and better glucose sensitivity than mock-treated controls. Next steps include testing mast cell activation inhibitors in primate models of obesity and of type 2 diabetes. | Patent pending; available for licensing | Liu, J. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online July 26, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1994 Contact: Guo-Ping Shi, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: gshi@rics.bwh.harvard.edu |
| SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1215 Published online Aug. 13, 2009 | | | | |