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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Paired box 4 (PAX4)	Studies in mice suggest that enhancing levels of PAX4 could help treat diabetes. In murine pancreatic islets, *Pax4* induced endocrine precursor cells to develop into β cells. In mouse embryos engineered to overexpress *Pax4*, endocrine precursor cells preferentially developed into β cells instead of α, δ or pancreatic polypeptide cells. In a mouse model of streptozotocin-mediated diabetes, *Pax4* overexpression induced production of β cells and islet repopulation that normalized blood sugar. Ongoing work is investigating whether *PAX4* overexpression can induce β cell production in human pancreatic tissue. ***SciBX*** **2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1243** **Published online Aug. 20, 2009**	Patented by Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry; available for licensing	Collombat, P. *et al. Cell*; published online Aug. 7, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.05.035 **Contact:** Ahmed Mansouri, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Gottingen, Germany e-mail: amansou@gwdg.de **Contact:** Patrick Collombat, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) U636, Nice, France e-mail: collombat@unice.fr