This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Metabolic disease	Sterol regulatory element binding protein (SREBP); SREBP chaperone (SCAP)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that blocking activation of SREBP could help treat metabolic syndrome. In cell culture, a small molecule SREBP inhibitor dubbed fatostatin decreased expression of SREBP-responsive genes. In a mouse model of obesity, the inhibitor lowered body weight, blood glucose levels and hepatic fat accumulation compared with no treatment. Next steps could include developing fatostatin analogs. SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1319 Published online Sept. 3, 2009	Patent application filed for use of fatostatin and its analogs; available for licensing	Kamisuki, S. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Aug. 27, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.07.007 Contact: Motonari Uesugi, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: uesugi@scl.kyoto-u.ac.jp