This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Tumor protein p53 (TP53; p53)	<p>Human tissue and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting p53 in adipose tissue could help treat diabetes. In a mouse model of diabetes, excessive caloric intake led to increased oxidative stress and senescence in adipose tissue, including increased levels of p53 and inflammatory cytokines. In the same mouse model, <i>p53</i> knockout reduced insulin resistance and decreased senescence. In samples of human adipose tissue, p53 and inflammatory cytokine levels were higher in diabetic patients than in nondiabetic patients. Next steps could include testing p53 inhibitors in animal models of diabetes.</p> <p>At least four companies have therapeutics targeting p53 in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1345 Published online Sept. 10, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Minamino, T. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 30, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.2014</p> <p>Contact: Issei Komuro, Chiba University Graduate School of Medicine, Chuo-ku, Chiba, Japan e-mail: komuro-ky@umin.ac.jp</p>