

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	Studies in mice suggest that preventing STAT3 activation in neurons could help treat obesity. In mice on a normal diet, constitutive activation of Stat3 only in the proopiomelanocortin neurons led to obesity, leptin and insulin resistance and increased food intake compared with what was seen in wild-type mice. Next steps could include determining the potential side effects of interfering with the pathway. Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s STAT3 inhibitor, RTA 402 bardoxolone methyl, is in Phase II testing to treat diabetes.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Ernst, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Sept. 16, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5712-08.2009 Contact: F. Thomas Wunderlich, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany e-mail: Thomas.Wunderlich@uni-koeln.de Contact: Jens C. Brüning, same affiliation as above e-mail: jens.bruening@uni-koeln.de
		SciBX 2(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1438 Published online Oct. 1, 2009		