

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Ghrelin receptor (GHSR); growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that targeting GHRH could help treat obesity by modulating endogenous ghrelin activity. In human kidney cells expressing GHSR, GHRH increased the receptor's affinity for ghrelin, a molecule that controls appetite. The next step is to confirm the results in animals.</p> <p>At least seven companies have compounds targeting GHSR or the GHRH receptor in clinical and preclinical testing for endocrine and metabolic conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.16 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Casanueva, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 15, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811680106</p> <p>Contact: Felipe F. Casanueva, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain e-mail: felipe.casanueva@usc.es</p>