This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Hypercholesterolemia	Thyroid hormone receptor- β	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that 3,5,3'-triiodothyroacetic acid (Triac) selectively binds thyroid hormone receptor-β and could help reduce cholesterol without affecting heart rhythm. <i>In vitro</i>, Triac bound with twofold to threefold greater selectivity for the β-receptor, which potentially benefits cholesterol levels, than for the α-receptor, which can be harmful to the heart. Next steps include further work studying the binding properties of Triac. At least four companies have selective thyroid hormone receptor-β agonists in clinical and preclinical testing for metabolic disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1699 Published online Dec. 3, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Martinez, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911024106 Contact: Igor Polikarpov, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Carlos, Brazil e-mail: ipolikarpov@ifsc.usp.br Contact: Munir S. Skaf, State University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil e-mail: skaf@iqm.unicamp.br Contact: Paul Webb, Methodist Hospital Research Institute, Houston, Texas e-mail: pwebb@tmhs.org Contact: John D. Baxter, same affiliation as above e-mail: jbaxter918@aol.com</p>