

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Metabolic disorders; muscular atrophy; muscular dystrophy	Peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- γ coactivator 1 α (PPARGC1A; PGC-1 α)	A study in mice suggests that increasing PGC-1 α levels could help treat age-related metabolic and musculoskeletal diseases. In mice, overexpression of <i>Pgc-1α</i> reduced age-associated weight gain, insulin resistance and oxidative damage in muscle tissue compared with what was seen in wild-type controls. Mice that overexpressed <i>Pgc-1α</i> also had greater exercise capacity than wild-type controls. Next steps could include screening for compounds that increase PGC-1 α expression and evaluating their effects in animals.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Wenz, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911570106 Contact: Bruce Spiegelman, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: Bruce_Spiegelman@dfci.harvard.edu
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