

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Unknown	<p>A study in rodents suggests that <i>N</i>-acylphosphatidylethanolamine (NAPE) could be useful in treating obesity. NAPE is synthesized in the small intestine in response to fat ingestion, and it concentrates in the hypothalamus. In rats, intraperitoneal injection of NAPE decreased food intake compared with the effect of injecting a control lipid. Chronic i.v. NAPE significantly lowered food intake and body weight compared with what was seen in vehicle-treated controls. Next steps include identifying the hypothalamic receptor for NAPE and testing how NAPE signaling relates to other satiety pathways.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.18 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	<p>Patents pending; available for licensing</p>	<p>Gillum, M.P. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Nov. 26, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.10.043 Contact: Gerald I. Shulman, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: gerald.shulman@yale.edu</p>