This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 14 (MAPK14; p38)	Studies *in vitro* and in mice suggest that inhibiting MAPK p38δ could potentially treat diabetes. p38δ-null mice had better glucose tolerance due to increased insulin secretion from pancreatic β-cells and were protected from high fat diet–induced insulin resistance and pancreatic β-cell failure compared with what was seen in wild-type littermates. The p38δ-null mice had increased activation of protein kinase D1 (Pkd1), which helps stimulate insulin secretion. A Pkd inhibitor reversed the protective effects of the p38δ-null phenotype on insulin secretion and glucose tolerance. Further studies are necessary to design an inhibitor that specifically targets p38δ. At least 10 companies have compounds targeting p38 in clinical testing for various conditions. *SciBX* **2**(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.188 Published online Feb. 5, 2009	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Sumara, G. *et al. Cell*; published online Jan. 26, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.11.018 **Contact:** Romeo Ricci, Institute of Cell Biology, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: romeo.ricci@cell.biol.ethz.ch