This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Metabolic disorders	Peroxisome proliferation activated receptor- α (PPARA; PPAR- α)	<p>Studies in rats suggest that a tetradecylthioacetic acid (TTA)-derived phospholipid could help treat metabolic syndrome. In male rats, ditetradecylthioacetyl phosphatidylcholine (TTA-PC), a phospholipid derived from the PPAR-α agonist TTA, decreased plasma cholesterol and triacylglycerol levels and increased expression of PPAR-α-regulated genes compared with what was seen using TTA. Next steps include optimizing TTA-PC and testing its therapeutic potential in metabolic syndrome-related conditions including hyperlipidemia and atherosclerosis.</p> <p>No fewer than 13 companies have PPAR agonists in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat metabolic disorders and diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.235 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed for all esterified compounds in the paper for applications including those related to metabolic syndrome, inflammation and cancer; IP owned by an undisclosed Norwegian company; currently unavailable for licensing</p>	<p>Skorve, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 4, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801019s</p> <p>Contact: Jon Skorve, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway e-mail: jon.skorve@med.uib.no</p> <p>Contact: Andrew D. Miller, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: a.miller@imperial.ac.uk</p>