

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Orexin 2 receptor (HCRTR2; OX2R)	A study in mice suggests that agonizing OX2R could help treat obesity. Mice overexpressing the neuropeptide hormone orexin had less weight gain on a high-fat diet than wild-type controls. Deletion of OX2R, which is one of two orexin receptors, reversed the protective effects of orexin overexpression against weight gain compared with what was seen in controls. A small molecule OX2R agonist boosted metabolic turnover and lowered weight gain compared with that seen in untreated controls. Next steps include designing efficient OX2R agonists for use in humans.	Patent pending on a small molecule agonist of OX2R; available for licensing	Funato, H. <i>et al. Cell Metabol.</i> ; published online Jan. 6, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2008.10.010 Contact: Masashi Yanagisawa, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: masashi.yanagisawa@utsouthwestern.edu
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