

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Obesity	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNRI)	<p>A study in rodents suggests that dibenzothiazepine-based CNRI inverse agonists may be useful for treating obesity. In an anorexia assay with rats, three of the inverse agonists lowered post-fasting food consumption at rates comparable to the CNRI inverse agonist Acomplia rimonabant. In diet-induced obese mice, two of the compounds caused a decrease in body weight compared with that seen in controls. Next steps could include further optimizing one of the leads and evaluating it in preclinical studies. Acomplia from sanofi-aventis Group was marketed in multiple countries outside the U.S. to treat obesity before being withdrawn last year following a recommendation by the EMEA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use because of serious CNS side effects. TM38837, a peripherally restricted CNRI antagonist from 7TM Pharma A/S, is in preclinical testing to treat metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.545 Published online April 2, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Petterson, H. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 11, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801534c Contact: Roger Olsson, ACADIA Pharmaceuticals AB, Malmo, Sweden e-mail: roger@acadia-pharm.com</p>