

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Metabolic disease | | | | |
| Obesity | Brown adipose tissue, coupling protein 1 mitochondrial proton carrier (UCP1) | <p>Studies of human tissue samples suggest that brown adipose tissue is present in adults and could be targeted to treat obesity. In supraclavicular adipose tissue biopsied from three individuals, protein and mRNA levels of the brown adipose tissue marker UCP1 were higher than those seen in white adipose tissue by a factor of more than 1,000, and intracellular lipid droplets were detected at multiple locations. Next steps could include determining the effects of targeting brown adipose tissue in the treatment of obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.713 Published online April 30, 2009</p> | Patent and licensing status unavailable | <p>Virtanen, K. <i>et al. N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online April 9, 2009; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0808949</p> <p>Contact: Sven Enerbäck, University of Goteborg, Goteborg, Sweden e-mail: sven.enerback@medgen.gu.se</p> |