This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes; obesity	AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK); acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase (ACAC)	<p>Studies in mice identified galegine analogs that could be useful for treating obesity and type 2 diabetes. Galegine has previously been suggested to decrease body weight by activating AMPK, inhibiting ACAC and increasing glucose uptake. Lean mice receiving galegine analog-containing food pellets had decreases in body weight, food intake and blood glucose compared with mice on a control diet. In genetically obese mice, the galegine analog-containing food pellets lowered body weight and food intake compared with the effects of a control diet. In a mouse model of diet-induced obesity, the treatment group had nonsignificant decreases in body weight and food intake compared with controls. Next steps include lead optimization and toxicology studies of the galegine analogs.</p> <p>DRL-16536, an AMPK modulator from Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. and Perlecan Pharma Pvt. Ltd., is in Phase I testing to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.826 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from University of Strathclyde Research and Innovation	<p>Coxon, G.D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 7, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm8011933</p> <p>Contact: Geoffrey D. Coxon, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: geoff.coxon@strath.ac.uk</p>