This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Growth hormone–releasing hormone (GHRH)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that GHRH agonists could help increase proliferation of islet cell grafts to treat diabetes. In rat cultured insulinoma cells, a GHRH agonist increased cell proliferation and decreased apoptosis compared with vehicle control. Diabetic mice transplanted with islets that had been treated with a GHRH agonist had better glucose control and insulin response than animals given untreated islets. Next steps include additional synthesis studies and preclinical testing of GHRH agonists. At least four companies have GHRH agonists in clinical and preclinical testing for endocrine indications. ***SciBX*** **3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.828** **Published online July 15, 2010**	Use of GHRH agonists in diabetes applications patented; available for licensing	Ludwig, B. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online June 28, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1005098107 **Contact:** Andrew V. Schally, Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Fla. e-mail: andrew.schally@va.gov