This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Cannabinoid CB_1 receptor (CNR1)	Mouse studies suggest that peripheral CNR1 blockade could help treat obesity and obesity-associated metabolic disorders. In two mouse models of obesity, AM6545 reduced insulin resistance, dyslipidemia and hepatic steatosis to levels comparable to those seen using the first-generation CNR1 antagonist Acomplia rimonabant. In normal mice, the CNR1 antagonist AM6545 did not cross the blood brain barrier to cause the psychiatric side effects associated with Acomplia. NIH team members and Jenrin Discovery Inc. are now collaborating on IND-enabling preclinical studies of an undisclosed peripheral CNR1 inhibitor from Jenrin to treat diabetes or nonalcoholic hepatic steatosis. sanofi-aventis Group discontinued marketing Acomplia/ Zimulti rimonabant to treat obesity in 2007 owing to unacceptable psychiatric side effects. TM38837, a peripheral CNR1 antagonist from 7TM Pharma A/S, has completed Phase I testing to treat obesity. ZY01, a CNR1 antagonist from Zydus Cadila Group, has completed Phase I testing to treat obesity and diabetes. *SciBX* 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.923 Published online Aug. 5, 2010	AM6545 and its uses patented by Northeastern University; licensing status unavailable	Tam, J. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online July 26, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI42551 **Contact:** George Kunos, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gkunos@mail.nih.gov **Contact:** Alexandros Makriyannis, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: a.makriyannis@neu.edu

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