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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Low-density lipoprotein-related protein 1 α-2-macroglobulin receptor (LRP1; CD91); leptin receptor (LEPR; CD295)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that LRP1 agonists could be useful for treating obesity. In cell culture, small interfering RNA–mediated LRP1 knockdown decreased LEPR signaling compared with that seen using control siRNA. Lrp1 knockout mice were obese and hyperlipidemic compared with wild-type controls. Next steps include identifying brain-penetrating LRP1 agonists. Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. has a coformulation of the amylin receptor agonist pramlintide and the LEPR agonist metreleptin in Phase II testing for obesity in partnership with Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. Angiochem Inc. and Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB have LEPR agonists in preclinical testing for obesity.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Liu, Q. *et al. PLoS Biol.*; published online Jan. 11, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000575 **Contact:** Guojun Bu, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: bu.guojun@mayo.edu

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