This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Not applicable	<p>A study in mice suggests that blocking the production of autoimmune antibodies could be useful for treating type 2 diabetes. In mice with diet-induced diabetes, compared with nonobese controls, adipose tissue had higher levels of inflammation and antibodies. In diabetic mice, Rituxan rituximab or genetic depletion of B cells led to lower adipose tissue inflammation and better glucose tolerance than no treatment. Next steps include identifying the targets of diabetes-associated autoantibodies and testing immunomodulatory therapeutics in preclinical models of the disease.</p> <p>Rituxan, a mAb against CD20 from Biogen Idec Inc. and the Genentech Inc. subsidiary of Roche, is marketed for a variety of autoimmune diseases and hematological cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.542 Published online May 12, 2011</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Winer, D.A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online April 17, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2353</p> <p>Contact: Edgar G. Engleman, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: edengleman@stanford.edu</p> <p>Contact: Daniel A. Winer, University Health Network, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: dan.winer@uhn.on.ca</p>