

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Cachexia	Patatin-like phospholipase domain containing 2 (PNPLA2; ATGL)	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest inhibiting ATGL could help treat cancer cachexia. In two mouse models of cancer cachexia, <i>Atgl</i> knockout mice lost less adipose and muscle mass and had lower serum levels of lipolysis markers than wild-type mice. In postmortem cancer cachexia patients, ATGL activity in adipose tissue was greater than that in adipose tissue from noncachexia cancer patients, and increased ATGL activity correlated with lower BMI. Ongoing work includes investigating the mechanisms by which inhibition of ATGL decreases cachexia.</p> <p>SciBX 4(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.713 Published online June 23, 2011</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Das, S.K. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online June 16, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1198973</p> <p>Contact: Rudolf Zechner, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria e-mail: rudolf.zechner@uni-graz.at</p> <p>Contact: Gerald Hoefler, same affiliation as above e-mail: gerald.hoefler@medunigraz.at</p>