This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Mannosyl (α -1,3-)-glycoprotein β -1,4-N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase isozyme A (MGAT4A)	<p>Mouse studies suggest preventing loss of MGAT4A activity could help treat type 2 diabetes. In mice fed a high-fat diet, MGAT4A expression in islet β cells led to preservation of glucose transport and increased insulin sensitivity and decreased fatty liver compared with those in wild-type controls. Next steps include developing strategies to interfere with fatty acid signaling to preserve MGAT4A activity.</p> <p>SciBX 4(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.935 Published online Aug. 25, 2011</p>	Patent pending covering agents that preserve β cell MGAT4A activity and glucose transport for the prevention and treatment of diabetes; available for licensing from the University of California, San Diego Technology Transfer Office	<p>Ohtsubo, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 14, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2414</p> <p>Contact: Jamey D. Marth, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute and University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. e-mail: jmarth@sanfordburnham.org</p>