

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	Cannabinoid CB ₁ receptor (CNR1)	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies identified peripherally restricted CNR1 antagonists that could help treat metabolic diseases. <i>In vitro</i> , the lead compounds inhibited CNR1 with nanomolar potency. In rats, oral dosing of the compounds led to low ng/mL concentrations in serum and undetectable levels in the brain. Next steps include <i>in vivo</i> studies with the compounds in disease models. TM38837, a peripherally restricted CNR1 antagonist from 7TM Pharma A/S, is in Phase I testing to treat diabetes and obesity. Jenrin Discovery Inc.'s peripherally restricted CNR1 antagonist, JD-2114, is in preclinical testing for diabetes and liver disease. SciBX 5(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.281 Published online March 15, 2012	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Fulp, A. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 28, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm201731z Contact: Rangan Maitra, RTI International, Research Triangle Park, N.C. e-mail: rmaitra@rti.org