This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Sphingosine-1-phosphate phosphatase 1 (SGPP1)	Cell culture studies suggest antagonizing SGPP1 could help treat type 2 diabetes. In cultured mouse pancreatic islet cells, pharmacological blockade of sphingosine-1-phosphate production decreased glucose-induced insulin secretion compared with no blockade. In these cells, small interfering RNA against SGPP1, which dephosphorylates sphingosine-1-phosphate, increased sphingosine-1-phosphate and insulin levels compared with nontargeted control siRNA. Next steps include identifying SGPP1 inhibitors.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Stanford, J.C. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online March 2, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.268185 Contact: Sabire Ozcan, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: sozcan@uky.edu
SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.338 Published online March 29, 2012				