

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Endocrine/metabolic disease</b>				
Diabetes	Sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor	<p>Studies in mice suggest that agonizing sphingosine 1-phosphate receptors could help treat diabetes. In a mouse model of type 2 diabetes, Gilenya fingolimod lowered fasting blood glucose concentrations and increased <math>\beta</math> cell mass and proliferation compared with no treatment. Next steps could include clinical testing in diabetic patients.</p> <p>Gilenya fingolimod (FTY720), a sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor agonist from Novartis AG and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp., is approved to treat relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). At least seven other companies have sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor agonists in preclinical to Phase II testing.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.73</b>  <b>Published online Jan. 19, 2012</b></p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Zhao, Z. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Dec. 22, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.305359</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Zhongmin Alex Ma, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:zhongmin.ma@mssm.edu">zhongmin.ma@mssm.edu</a></p>