

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Free fatty acid receptor 1 (FFAR1; GPR40)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies have identified GPR40 agonists that could help treat type 2 diabetes. <i>In vitro</i>, a mesylpropoxylated derivative of 4-benzyloxydihydrocinnamic acid showed greater potency and specificity for GPR40 than the GPR40 agonist TAK-875. In mice, the lead compound had higher oral bioavailability than TAK-875. Next steps could include additional preclinical testing of lead compounds from this study.</p> <p>Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. has TAK-875 in Phase III testing to treat type 2 diabetes. Connexios Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. has the GPR40 agonists CNX-011-326 and CNX-011-67 in preclinical development for type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 5(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.814 Published online Aug. 9, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Christiansen, E. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 25, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm3002026</p> <p>Contact: Trond Ulven, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark e-mail: ulven@sdu.dk</p>