This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	v-Maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene homolog A (MAFA; R1PE3b1); microRNA-204 (miR-204)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting miR-204 could help treat diabetes. In a mouse model of type 2 diabetes, miR-204 expression in islets was greater than that in islets from lean control mice. In an islet β cell line and in primary human islets, miR-204 overexpression decreased insulin expression and levels of the insulin regulator MAFA compared with wild-type expression. Next steps include developing and optimizing miR-204 inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 6(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1030 Published online Sept. 26, 2013</p>	Patent application filed covering use in diabetes; available for licensing from the UAB Research Foundation	<p>Xu, G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 25, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3287</p> <p>Contact: Anath Shalev, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: shalev@uab.edu</p>