SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Growth hormone–releasing hormone receptor (GHRHR); GHRH	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest pancreatic islet cells pretreated with GHRHR agonists and transplanted into the adrenal gland could help treat diabetes. In cell culture, a potent GHRH analog increased the viability and proliferation of rat islet cells compared with vehicle control. The viability was further increased by coculture with adrenal cells. In a mouse model of type 1 diabetes, transplantation of analog-preconditioned islets into the adrenal gland rapidly decreased blood glucose levels compared with transplantation into the standard kidney capsule. Next steps could include optimizing the GHRH analogs for clinical use. At least four companies have GHRHR agonists in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for various indications. ***SciBX*** **6(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.114** **Published online Feb. 7, 2013**	Patent applications pending; exclusively licensed to Biscayne Pharmaceuticals Inc.; may be available for collaborations or partnerships	Schubert, U. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Jan. 23, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1221505110 **Contact:** Andrew V. Schally, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Fla. e-mail: andrew.schally@va.gov