This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Receptor activator of NF- κ B ligand (RANKL; TNFSF11)	<p>Patient and mouse studies suggest RANKL antagonists could help treat type 2 diabetes. In patient sera, individuals that developed type 2 diabetes showed higher soluble RANKL levels than those that did not develop the disease. In mice fed high-fat diets, RANKL knockout increased insulin sensitivity and decreased triglyceride and cholesterol levels in the liver compared with no knockout. Next steps include testing RANKL antagonists in preclinical models of diabetes.</p> <p>Amgen Inc. and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. market Prolia denosumab, a human mAb targeting RANKL, to treat bone cancer and osteoporosis. Ablynx N.V. has a nanobody against RANKL in Phase I testing to treat bone cancer and osteoporosis.</p> <p>SciBX 6(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.163 Published online Feb. 21, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Kiechl, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 10, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3084 Contact: Georg Schett, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany e-mail: georg.schett@uk-erlangen.de Contact: Stefan Kiechl, Medical University Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria e-mail: stefan.kiechl@i-med.ac.at</p>