

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes; obesity	HNF1 homeobox B (HNF1B); microRNA-802 (miR-802)	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest inhibiting miR-802 or increasing HNF1B signaling could help treat obesity and type 2 diabetes. In overweight humans and in genetic and diet-induced obesity mouse models, miR-802 expression was greater in the liver than that in livers from lean individuals and nonobese control mice. In the mouse obesity models, locked nucleic acid (LNA) antagonists of miR-802 expression increased insulin resistance and glucose tolerance compared with control LNAs. In the mouse models, vector-induced overexpression of <i>Hnf1b</i>, the identified target of miR-802, also improved insulin resistance and glucose tolerance. Next steps could include developing a screen to identify molecules that inhibit miR-802 and/or promote HNF1B signaling.</p> <p>SciBX 6(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.195 Published online Feb. 28, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kornfeld, J.-W. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 6, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature11793 Contact: Jens Brüning, Max Planck Institute for Neurological Research, Cologne, Germany e-mail: bruening@nf.mpg.de</p>