

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Serine/threonine kinase 4 (STK4)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting STK4 could help treat diabetes. In human and mouse islets and in rat β cells under diabetic conditions, compared with cells under normal conditions, STK4 activation was increased. In human islets, adenovirus-mediated overexpression of STK4 induced β cell apoptosis, and STK4-targeting siRNA increased β cell survival and function compared with scrambled siRNA. In mouse models of chemical- and high-fat diet-induced diabetes, mice with β cell-specific knockdown of <i>Stk4</i> had greater β cell function and β cell mass than wild-type mice and showed improved glucose tolerance. Next steps could include developing an STK4 inhibitor.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Ardestani, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online March 16, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3482 Contact: Kathrin Maedler, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany e-mail: kmaedler@uni-bremen.de Contact: Amin Ardestani, same affiliation as above e-mail: ardestani.amin@gmail.com
		SciBX 7(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.374 Published online April 3, 2014		