This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Amylase α 1A (AMY1A); AMY1B; AMY1C	<p>Genetic studies identified an association between copy number variants of the salivary amylase genes and obesity that could lead to new therapeutics. Amylase is involved in salivary digestion of starch. In a genetic association study of adipose tissue from 149 families and in validation cohorts of more than 6,000 individuals, low copy numbers of the <i>AMY1</i> gene cluster, which encompasses <i>AMY1A</i>, <i>AMY1B</i> and <i>AMY1C</i>, correlated with high BMI and obesity. In serum from morbidly obese individuals, salivary AMY1 protein levels were lower than those in healthy controls. Next steps include establishing the mechanistic relationship between AMY1 and obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 7(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.493 Published online May 1, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Falchi, M. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online March 30, 2014; doi:10.1038/ng.2939 Contact: Philippe Froguel, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: p.froguel@imperial.ac.uk Contact: Mario Falchi, same affiliation as above e-mail: m.falchi@imperial.ac.uk</p>