

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Obesity	Bacterial bile salt hydrolase (bsh)	<p>Mouse studies suggest bsh-expressing probiotics could help treat obesity. In mice raised under aseptic conditions, expression of bsh from <i>Escherichia coli</i> in the GI tract altered expression of liver and intestinal genes involved in lipid and cholesterol metabolism. In mice fed a normal or high-fat diet, colonization of the GI tract with bsh⁺ <i>E. coli</i> lowered weight gain and resulted in lower serum cholesterol and liver triglyceride levels than colonization with bsh⁻ <i>E. coli</i> and did not cause changes in food intake. Next steps could include testing the effects of bacteria expressing bsh in animal models of obesity.</p> <p>SciBX 7(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.645 Published online June 5, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Joyce, S.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 5, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1323599111</p> <p>Contact: Cormac G.M. Gahan, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland e-mail: c.gahan@ucc.ie</p>