

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Islet amyloid polypeptide (IAPP)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest enhancing β cell autophagy could help treat diabetes. Human IAPP leads to the formation of toxic oligomer and amyloid deposits in β cells, which could be prevented by autophagy. In mouse β cells and human islets, enhancing autophagy increased cell viability and inhibiting autophagy decreased viability compared with normal autophagy. In mice expressing human IAPP in β cells and fed a high-fat diet, a pharmacological enhancer of autophagy improved glucose tolerance, decreased IAPP oligomerization and increased β cell function compared with saline. Next steps include developing compounds that enhance autophagy in β cells.</p> <p>SciBX 7(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.988 Published online Aug. 28, 2014</p>	<p>Patent and licensing status unavailable for findings from first study</p> <p>Findings from second study unpatented; unavailable for licensing</p> <p>Patent and licensing status unavailable for findings from third study</p>	<p>Kim, J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 18, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI69625 Contact: Myung-Shik Lee, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: mslee0923@skku.edu Contact: Sang-Wook Kang, University of Ulsan, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: swkang@amc.seoul.kr</p> <p>Shigihara, N. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 18, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI69866 Contact: Hirotaka Watada, Juntendo University Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: hwatada@juntendo.ac.jp Contact: Yoshio Fujitani, same affiliation as above e-mail: fujitani@juntendo.ac.jp</p> <p>Rivera, J.F. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 18, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI71981 Contact: Peter C. Butler, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: pbutler@mednet.ucla.edu</p>