This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Schizophrenia	Proline dehydrogenase (oxidase) 1 (PRODH; POX); SNP rs450046; SNP rs4819756; SNP rs2870983	Genetic and imaging studies suggest that lowering PRODH activity in the brain could help treat schizophrenia. A genetic analysis of 303 schizophrenia patients and healthy sibling and parental controls showed that the risk allele rs450046 was associated with higher PRODH activity, whereas protective alleles rs4819756 and rs2870983 were associated with lower PRODH activity. Subsequent brain MRI scans revealed that <i>PRODH</i> risk alleles were associated with lower striatal volume and higher striatal-frontal functional activity compared with what was seen in healthy controls. Next steps include studying the interactions of the identified SNPs with other known risk SNPs for schizophrenia to develop a risk marker profile.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Kempf, L. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online Nov. 7, 2008; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000252 Contact: Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim, Germany e-mail: a.meyer-lindenberg@zi-mannheim.de Contact: Daniel R. Weinberger, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: weinberd@mail.nih.gov
<i>SciBX</i> 1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1026 Published online Nov. 20, 2008				