This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	SNP <i>rs4420638</i> ; SNP <i>rs11159647</i> ; SNP <i>rs3826656</i>	A genome-wide association study identified three loci that could potentially be used as markers of AD susceptibility. A study of 484,522 SNPs in 1,376 samples from 410 families of European descent showed a significant association between <i>rs4420638</i> and AD onset ($p=5.7 \times 10^{-14}$), most likely reflecting the <i>APOE-ε4</i> gene, which encodes apolipoprotein E. This study and additional studies on nearly 2,700 individuals from about 900 families identified two new alleles, <i>rs11159647</i> and <i>rs3826656</i> , associated with AD onset ($p=0.00002$ and $p=0.007$, respectively). Next steps could include identification of candidate genes near the SNPs. SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1080 Published online Dec. 11, 2008	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Bertram, L. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i> ; published online Nov. 30, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2008.10.008 Contact: Rudolph E. Tanzi, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: tanzi@helix.mgh.harvard.edu