This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	IL-28B (IFNL3)	<p>A genomewide association study identified a SNP near the <i>IL-28B</i> gene that might help predict treatment response in HCV patients. In patients receiving standard 48-week treatment of ribavirin plus either peginterferon-α-2a or peginterferon-α-2b, an allele at SNP rs12979860 was strongly associated with a positive treatment response and sustained viral clearance. The same allele was identified across several populations but was more common in European Americans, who have a higher rate of positive treatment responses than African Americans. Next steps could include determining whether this variant can predict response in less common HCV strains than the genotype 1 variant analyzed in this study.</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1280 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	Schering-Plough Corp. owns patent applications covering the market; available for licensing	<p>Ge, D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Aug. 16, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08309</p> <p>Contact: David Goldstein, Duke University, Durham, N.C. e-mail: d.goldstein@duke.edu</p>