This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Hyperlipidemia	Fatty acid desaturase 3 (FADS3)	A genomics study suggests that antagonizing FADS3 could help treat hyperlipidemia. A genomewide analysis showed that carriers of a hyperlipidemia-linked SNP had higher levels of FADS3 than noncarrier controls. The SNP occurred in a gene for a transcription factor that regulates the expression of multiple proteins involved in lipid metabolism. Next steps include characterizing 17 other genes whose expression is altered by the hyperlipidemia-linked SNP.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Plaisier, C.L. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online Sept. 11, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000642 Contact: Päivi Pajukanta, David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: ppajukanta@mednet.ucla.edu
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