This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver disease	Connective-tissue growth factor (CTGF)	<p>A genetic study identified two SNPs near <i>CTGF</i> that could help predict susceptibility to severe liver fibrosis. In a sample of 944 Chinese, Sudanese and Brazilian patients infected with liver fibrosis-inducing <i>Schistosoma japonicum</i> or <i>S. mansoni</i>, the rs9402373 SNP was significantly associated with increased incidence of severe liver fibrosis ($p=2\times 10^{-6}$). In the Chinese and Sudanese groups, the SNP near <i>CTGF</i> was also significantly associated with increased risk for severe liver fibrosis ($p=6\times 10^{-4}$). Next steps could include studying the functional role of CTGF in liver fibrosis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1533 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Mousa, N.A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 12, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20090383 Contact: Alain Dessein, University of the Mediterranean Aix-Marseille II, Marseille, France e-mail: alain.dessein@univmed.fr</p>