This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Blindness	Transient receptor potential cation channel subfamily M member 1 (TRPM1)	Three genomics studies in humans identified <i>TRPM1</i> mutations as potential targets to treat complete congenital stationary night blindness (cCSNB). At least 20 different mutations in <i>TRPM1</i> were identified in patients with the condition. Electroretinographic evidence from two of the studies supported the hypothesis that <i>TRPM1</i> mutations caused dysfunction in bipolar cells, which transmit signals from rod cells to retinal neurons under low-light conditions. Ongoing work includes studying signaling pathways in bipolar cells and looking for additional genes that might cause cCSNB. SciBX 2(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1641 Published online Nov. 12, 2009	For the first paper: patent and licensing status unavailable For the second and third papers: unpatented; unlicensed	Li, Z. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online Oct. 29, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.10.003 Contact: Andrew R. Webster, University College London Institute of Ophthalmology, London, U.K. e-mail: andrew.webster@ucl.ac.uk van Genderen, M. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online Nov. 5, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.10.012 Contact: Maarten Kamermans, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: m.kamermans@nin.knaw.nl Audo, I. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online Nov. 5, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.10.013 Contact: Christina Zeitz, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: christina.zeitz@inserm.fr