This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Myeloproliferative neoplasms	Janus kinase-2 (JAK2; JAK-2); SNP rs10974944	<p>A genomewide association study identified a SNP on <i>JAK-2</i> that could be a useful biomarker for predicting susceptibility to the development of myeloproliferative neoplasms. Genetic analysis of patients with polycythemia vera or essential thrombocythemia showed that the rs10974944 SNP was significantly associated with <i>JAK-2</i>^{V617F}-positive myeloproliferative neoplasms ($p=7.7\times 10^{-22}$). Variation at rs10974944 was specifically associated with predisposition to polycythemia vera ($p=1.0\times 10^{-16}$) and essential thrombocythemia ($p=6.7\times 10^{-5}$). Next steps include assessing the diagnostic value this SNP adds to existing <i>JAK-2</i>^{V617F}-based diagnostics of myeloproliferative neoplasms. Ipsogen S.A. markets a diagnostic kit for myeloproliferative diseases based on the <i>JAK-2</i>^{V617F} mutation.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.444 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Kilpivaara, O. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online March 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.342</p> <p>Contact: Ross Levine, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: leviner@mskcc.org</p>