This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Diabetes	Interferon induced with helicase C domain 1 (IFIH1; MDA5)	Genomewide association studies identified variants in the <i>IFIH1</i> gene that lower the risk of type 1 diabetes. In patient and control DNA pools, the resequencing of 10 candidate genes identified new rare variants associated with the disease, including four variants of the <i>IFIH1</i> gene. In more than 30,000 subjects, the four variants were each significantly associated with lower type 1 diabetes risk. The mutations all caused truncation or alteration of splicing in <i>IFIH1</i> , which encodes a cytoplasmic helicase that induces interferon response to viral DNA. Next steps could include testing whether blocking IFIH1 could decrease the risk of type 1 diabetes.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Nejentsev, S. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online March 5, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1167728 Contact: Sergey Nejentsev, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: sn262@cam.ac.uk or sergey.nejentsev@cimr.cam.ac.uk
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