This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Diagnostics				
Metabolic disease; atherosclerosis	<i>Angiopoietin-like 3 (ANGPTL3); ANGPTL4; ANGPTL5</i>	Studies in patients and in cell culture revealed sequence variants in the <i>ANGPTL</i> gene family that could help predict both low plasma triglyceride levels and decreased risk for metabolic disorders and atherosclerosis. Patients with loss-of-function mutations in <i>ANGPTL3</i> , <i>ANGPTL4</i> and <i>ANGPTL5</i> had lower plasma triglyceride levels than control individuals. In human embryonic kidney cells, loss-of-function mutations in <i>ANGPTL3</i> or <i>ANGPTL4</i> resulted in greater lipoprotein lipase (LPL) activity compared with that seen in wild-type controls. Next steps will require validating the biomarkers in additional patient cohorts.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Romeo, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Dec. 15, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI37118 Contact: Helen H. Hobbs, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: helen.hobbs@utsouthwestern.edu Contact: Jonathan C. Cohen, same affiliation as above e-mail: jonathan.cohen@utsouthwestern.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.56 Published online Jan. 15, 2009				