This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase 1 (IRAK1); SNP rs2239673; SNP rs763737; SNP rs3027907; SNP rs5945174; SNP rs7061789	Studies in cell culture and in mice identified SNPs in <i>IRAK1</i> on chromosome X that could help predict susceptibility to SLE. Analysis of human DNA samples from patients with SLE in four different ethnic groups revealed that the rs2239673, rs763737, rs3027907, rs5945174 and rs7061789 SNPs were associated with both adult- and childhood-onset SLE. In mice with SLE disease loci, <i>Irak1</i> deficiency attenuated several lupus-associated phenotypes, including lymphocyte activation and renal disease, compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include validating the results in other animal models of SLE.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Jacob, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 23, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901181106 Contact: Chandra Mohan, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: chandra.mohan@utsouthwestern.edu Contact: Chaim O. Jacob, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: jacob@usc.edu
SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.567 Published online April 9, 2009				