This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Type 2 diabetes	Melatonin receptor 1B (MTNR1B); SNP rs1387153; SNP rs10830963	<p>Three genomewide association studies identified SNPs that could be useful biomarkers for predicting susceptibility to type 2 diabetes. Compared with healthy controls, the rs1387153 SNP near the <i>MTNR1B</i> locus was associated with higher fasting plasma glucose ($p=7.6 \times 10^{-29}$), higher type 2 diabetes risk ($p=6.3 \times 10^{-5}$) and higher risk of developing hyperglycemia or diabetes over a nine-year period ($p=0.005$). A second study showed that the rs10830963 SNP was associated with lower β-cell function ($p=1.1 \times 10^{-15}$) and higher risk of type 2 diabetes ($p=3.3 \times 10^{-7}$). A third study showed that the rs10830963 SNP was also associated with impairment of early insulin response to both oral and i.v. glucose and with faster deterioration of insulin secretion over time. Next steps could include identifying additional type 2 diabetes susceptibility loci.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.57 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Bouatia-Naji, N. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Dec. 7, 2008; doi:10.1038/ng.277 Contact: Philippe Froguel, Imperial College London, U.K. e-mail: p.froguel@imperial.ac.uk</p> <p>Lyssenko, V. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Dec. 7, 2008; doi:10.1038/ng.288 Contact: Leif Groop, Lund University, Malmo, Sweden e-mail: leif.groop@med.lu.se</p> <p>Prokopenko, I. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Dec. 7, 2008; doi:10.1038/ng.290 Contact: Goncalo Abecasis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: goncalo@umich.edu</p>