This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HBV	Major histocompatibility complex class II DP α 1 (HLA-DPA1); HLA-DPB1	A genomewide association study identified SNPs in <i>HLA-DP</i> that could help predict susceptibility to chronic HBV. Genetic analysis of Japanese patients with chronic HBV identified 11 SNPs within or around <i>HLA-DPA1</i> and <i>HLA-DPB1</i> that were significantly associated with disease ($p=3.62\times 10^{-8}$). Two of the SNPs were confirmed in additional Japanese and Thai cohorts with chronic HBV. Next steps could include confirming the markers in other ethnic populations. <i>SciBX</i> 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.581 Published online April 9, 2009	Unpatented; <i>HLA-DP</i> findings in public domain	Kamatani, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online April 6, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.348 Contact: Yusuke Nakamura, University of Tokyo, Japan e-mail: yusuke@ims.u-tokyo.ac.jp