This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Addiction	<i>CHRNA5-CHRNA3-CHRNA4</i> gene cluster on chromosome 15; SNP rs8034191; SNP rs1051730	<p>A genomewide association study identified SNPs in the <i>CHRNA5-CHRNA3-CHRNA4</i> gene cluster on chromosome 15 that could help predict susceptibility to alcohol abuse. Previous studies have suggested that the gene cluster could be a susceptibility locus for lung cancer, nicotine dependence and alcohol dependence. Genetic analysis of 367 Caucasian siblings identified two SNPs on chromosome 15—rs8034191 and rs1051730—that were significantly associated with lower body sway anterior and lower body sway posterior ($p=0.0002$ and $p=0.0012$, respectively), which are behavioral phenotypes predictive of high alcohol tolerance and susceptibility to alcohol abuse. Next steps could include identifying additional susceptibility genes for alcohol dependence.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.64 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Joslyn, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810970105</p> <p>Contact: Raymond White, Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center, Emeryville, Calif. e-mail: rwhite@gallo.ucsf.edu</p>