This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Phosphodiesterase 4D, cAMP-specific (PDE4D); SNP rs1588265; SNP rs1544791	<p>A genomewide association study identified SNPs on chromosome 5q12 in <i>PDE4D</i> that could help predict susceptibility to asthma and the efficacy of PDE-4 inhibitors. PDE4D is a regulator of airway smooth muscle contractility. Analysis of 359 asthma cases identified SNPs rs1588265 and rs1544791 that were significantly associated with disease ($p=4.1 \times 10^{-4}$ and $p=9.2 \times 10^{-4}$, respectively). Next steps include identifying the <i>PDE4D</i> variants that may have a role in causing asthma.</p> <p>At least six companies have PDE-4 inhibitors in development stages ranging from Phase I/II to marketed to treat asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.796 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Himes, B. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online May 7, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.01.026</p> <p>Contact: Blanca E. Himes, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Mass. e-mail: blanca_himes@hms.harvard.edu</p>