This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver disease	Transaldolase 1 (TALDO1; TAL)	<p>Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in mice suggest that TALDO1 deficiency could be a biomarker for liver disease and that antioxidants could help treat the condition. Taldo1^{+/-} or Taldo1^{-/-} mice spontaneously developed hepatocellular carcinoma, and Taldo^{-/-} mice were susceptible to acetaminophen-induced liver failure. Taldo1^{-/-} mice also showed increased oxidative stress in the liver, which has been suggested to play a role in tumorigenesis. The antioxidant <i>N</i>-acetylcysteine prevented acetaminophen-induced liver failure and hepatocarcinogenesis in the Taldo1^{-/-} mice. Next steps could include testing antioxidant therapeutics in TALDO1-deficient patients.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.830 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent issued covering a diagnostic based on the transaldolase protein and DNA; diagnostic available for licensing	<p>Hanczko, R. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 11, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI35722</p> <p>Contact: Andras Perl, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, N.Y. e-mail: perla@upstate.edu</p>