This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	<i>Integrin α_4 (ITGA4); KIT ligand (KITLG); sprouty homolog 4 (SPRY4); sprouty-related, EVH1 domain containing 2 (SPRED2)</i>	A genomewide association study identified a series of SNPs that could help predict susceptibility to testicular germ cell tumors. An analysis of 277 patients and 919 healthy controls identified 7 SNPs on chromosome 12q22 within <i>KITLG</i> and 1 SNP on chromosome 2q31.3 within <i>ITGA4</i> that were significantly associated with testicular cancer ($p=5\times 10^{-8}$ for all). The study also identified three SNPs on chromosome 5q31.3 near <i>SPRY4</i> and two SNPs on chromosome 2p14 in the centromeric region of <i>SPRED2</i> that were significantly associated with disease ($p<5\times 10^{-6}$ for all). Next steps could include validating the functional involvement of the SNP-associated genes in testicular germ cell tumors.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Kanetsky, P.A. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online May 31, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.393 Contact: Katherine Nathanson, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: knathans@mail.med.upenn.edu
SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.972 Published online June 18, 2009				