This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Musculoskeletal disease				
Osteoporosis	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 7 family member A1 (ALDH7A1)	A genomewide association study identified a SNP in <i>ALDH7A1</i> that could help predict susceptibility to osteoporosis. In a cohort of Chinese patients with hip osteoporotic fractures, as compared to healthy matched controls, SNP rs13182402 in <i>ALDH7A1</i> was significantly associated with the fractures ($p=2.08 \times 10^{-9}$). In a Chinese and Caucasian patient cohort, as compared to healthy matched controls, the same SNP was significantly associated with low bone mineral density in the hip ($p=6.39 \times 10^{-6}$). Next steps include studying the mechanisms of how <i>ALDH7A1</i> contributes to osteoporosis risk.	Work unpatented; available for licensing	Guo, Y. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online Jan. 8, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000806 Contact: Hong-Wen Deng, University of Missouri–Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo. e-mail: dengh@umkc.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.122 Published online Jan. 28, 2010				