This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Familial exudative vitreoretinopathy	Tetraspanin 12 (TSPAN12; NET2)	<p>Two independent genetic studies suggest that agonizing TSPAN12 could help treat familial exudative vitreoretinopathy. In one of the papers, a genomewide association study of 11 families with a high prevalence of familial exudative vitreoretinopathy identified multiple disease-linked SNPs in the vicinity of the <i>TSPAN12</i> locus, including three missense mutations within the <i>TSPAN12</i> gene. In the other paper, sequencing of <i>TSPAN12</i> in 70 familial exudative vitreoretinopathy patients identified 7 mutations that were predicted to alter the function of TSPAN12. Next steps could include determining how the mutations identified in the studies lead to protein dysfunction and retinopathy.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit has a discovery-stage research program focused on TSPAN12 in ophthalmic indications.</p> <p>SciBX 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.354 Published online March 18, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Nikopoulos, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online Feb. 12, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.12.016 Contact: Frans P.M. Cremers, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Nijmegen, the Netherlands e-mail: f.cremers@antrg.umcn.nl</p> <p>Poulter, J.A. <i>et al.</i> <i>Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online Feb. 12, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2010.01.012 Contact: Carmel Toomes, St. James's University Hospital, Leeds, U.K. e-mail: c.toomes@leeds.ac.uk</p>