This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Schizophrenia	Calcium channel voltage-dependent N type- α 1B subunit (CACNA1B; Cav2.2); double C2-like domains- α (DOC2A); ret proto-oncogene (RET); ras-like without CAAX 2 (RIT2)	<p>Genomewide copy number variation studies identified at least four genes that could help predict the risk of schizophrenia. Analysis of a cohort of patients with schizophrenia and healthy controls found significant associations between the disorder and copy number variations in the calcium-signaling genes <i>CACNA1B</i> and <i>DOC2A</i> and the Ras-signaling genes <i>RET</i> and <i>RIT2</i> ($p < 3 \times 10^{-3}$). Additional analysis indicated that copy number variations in a total of seven more genes on the calcium-signaling and Ras-signaling pathways might also be associated with schizophrenia. Ongoing work includes sequencing and functional analysis of <i>CACNA1B</i>, <i>DOC2A</i>, <i>RET</i> and <i>RIT2</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 3(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.658 Published online May 27, 2010</p>	Patent application filed by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; available for licensing	<p>Glessner, J.T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 10, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1000274107</p> <p>Contact: Hakon Hakonarson, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: hakonarson@chop.edu</p>