This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Alopecia	UL16 binding protein 3 (ULBP3)	<p>Genomewide association studies identified genetic loci that could help predict susceptibility to alopecia areata. In a screen of 1,054 patients and 3,278 controls, 139 SNPs were significantly associated with alopecia ($p < 5 \times 10^{-7}$). In particular, strong associations occurred in the <i>ULBP</i> cluster, which includes genes involved in T cell-mediated death and autoimmunity. In alopecia patients, as compared with healthy controls, ULBP3 was overexpressed in the dermal sheath and papilla and cytotoxic T cells showed greater infiltration into hair follicles. Next steps include using the genetic information to develop a diagnostic or therapeutic.</p> <p>SciBX 3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.826 Published online July 15, 2010</p>	Patent application filed by Columbia University; available for licensing	<p>Petukhova, L. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 30, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09114 Contact: Angela M. Christiano, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: amc65@columbia.edu</p>