This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver disease	Neurocan (NCAN); glucokinase hexokinase 4 regulator (GCKR); lysophospholipase-like 1 (LYPLAL1); patatin-like phospholipase domain containing 3 (PNPLA3)	<p>Genomewide association studies identified markers that could help predict risk of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). A meta-analysis of genomewide studies of over 9,000 subjects identified SNPs in <i>NCAN</i>, <i>GCKR</i>, <i>LYPLAL1</i> and <i>PNPLA3</i> that were significantly associated with NAFLD ($p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$ for all). Meta-analyses of NAFLD patients also identified associations between the <i>NCAN</i> and <i>GCKR</i> SNPs and serum levels of triglycerides, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and/or other serum components ($p \leq 4.4 \times 10^{-4}$). Future studies could include elucidating the functions of the identified SNPs in NAFLD.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.338 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Speliotes, E.K. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online March 10, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1001324 Contact: Ingrid B. Borecki, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: iborecki@wustl.edu Contact: Elizabeth K. Speliotes, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: espeliot@med.umich.edu</p>