This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine/metabolic disease				
Diabetes	Solute carrier family 30 zinc transporter member 8 (SLC30A8; ZNT8)	Human genetic studies suggest inhibiting SLC30A8 could help prevent or treat type 2 diabetes. Previous studies in mice had alternatively suggested that loss of SLC30A8 activity could increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Genotyping and analysis of about 150,000 individuals showed that carriers of mutations in <i>SLC30A8</i> that result in the expression of a truncated protein had 65% decreased risk of developing type 2 diabetes compared with noncarriers ($p=1.7\times 10^{-6}$). The two most commonly identified protective mutations result in the expression of an unstable variant of the protein. Next steps include characterizing the biological effects of the truncating <i>SLC30A8</i> mutations in humans.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Flannick, J. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online March 2, 2014; doi:10.1038/ng.2915 Contact: David Altshuler, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: altshuler@molbio.mgh.harvard.edu Contact: Kari Stefansson, deCode genetics ehf and Amgen Inc., Reykjavik, Iceland e-mail: kstefans@decode.is
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