

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Mental retardation	Tumor suppressor candidate 3 (TUSC3; N33); magnesium transporter 1 (MAGT1; IAP)	In vitro studies suggest that mutations in the <i>TUSC3</i> and <i>IAP</i> genes could be useful for diagnosing nonsyndromic mental retardation. Both genes code for a subunit of the oligosaccharyltransferase (OTase) complex, which catalyzes a key step in protein <i>N</i> -glycosylation. Further studies are needed to determine both the biological effects of the mutations and how defects in OTase can nevertheless result in normal cellular <i>N</i> -glycosylation. Ikonisys Inc. and Sequenom Inc. each have genetic tests for diseases associated with mental retardation in pilot trials.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Molinari, F. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i> ; published online May 1, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2008.03.021 Contact: Laurence Colleaux, Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France e-mail: colleaux@necker.fr