This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune Disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Interferon-β (IFN-β); major histocompatibility complex, class II, DR-β1 (HLA-DRB1)	A genetic analysis of subjects with MS suggests that the *HLA-DRB1*0401* and *HLA-DRB1*0408* alleles may predict poor outcome of IFN-β therapy in MS. Patients on long-term IFN-β therapy who carried the *HLA-DRB1*0401* or *HLA-DRB1*0408* allele had, respectively, a 5- and 14-fold increased risk of developing antibodies to IFN-β compared with control patients not carrying the alleles ($p<0.01$). Furthermore, antibody neutralizing activity was significantly increased in the sera of *HLA-DRB1*-0401*– and *HLA-DRB1*0408*–positive patients compared with patients negative for these alleles ($p=0.003$). Next steps include investigating whether IFN-β formulations with higher immunogenicity are more strongly affected by the HLA haplotype than formulations with low immunogenicity.	Not patented; unavailable for licensing	Hoffmann, S. *et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.*; published online July 24, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2008.07.006 **Contact:** Bernhard Hemmer, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany e-mail: hemmer@lrz.tu-muenchen.de