This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Hypercholesterolemia	Niemann-Pick C1-like protein (NPC1L1)	*In vitro* studies of the ezetimibe (EZE) binding site of NPC1L1 could help guide the design of improved therapies for hypercholesterolemia. NPC1L1 is an intestinal protein that mediates the absorption of dietary cholesterol, and it is inhibited by EZE. Biochemical and proteomics analysis of the EZE-NPC1L1 complex identified the loop C region of NPC1L1 as the binding site for EZE. Next steps should include design of next-generation NPC1L1 inhibitors. Zetia ezetimibe is marketed by Schering-Plough Corp. and Merck & Co. Inc. to treat hypercholesterolemia.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Weinglass, A. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Aug. 4, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0800936105 **Contact:** Adam B. Weinglass, Merck Research Laboratories, Rahway, N.J. e-mail: adam_weinglass@merck.com