

This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Infectious disease | | | | |
| Pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) | <i>Toll-like receptor 8 (TLR8)</i> | <p>A genome-wide association study identified SNPs in <i>TLR8</i> on chromosome X that could help predict susceptibility to pulmonary TB. Genetic analysis of 375 Indonesian pulmonary TB patients and 387 healthy controls identified 4 SNPs in <i>TLR8</i> that were significantly associated with susceptibility to TB in males. A Russian study in 1,837 pulmonary TB patients and 1,779 controls repeated the significant association between the SNPs and TB. PCR analysis showed that <i>TLR8</i> transcript levels were substantially upregulated in patients during the acute phase of disease following completion of TB treatment regimens ($p=9.36 \times 10^{-5}$). Next steps include confirming the predictive value of the four SNPs in larger cohorts of TB patients.</p> <p>SciBX 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.930 Published online Oct. 23, 2008</p> | Unpatented; unlicensed | <p>Davila, S. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i>; published online Oct. 9, 2008; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000218 Contact: Sonia Davila, Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore e-mail: sonia@gis.a-star.edu.sg</p> |