This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Metabolic disease				
Metabolic disorders	ATP-binding cassette sub-family G WHITE member 2 (ABCG2; MXR)	Cell culture and population studies suggest that enhancing ABCG2 activity could help lower urate levels and treat gout. In *Xenopus* oocytes, expression of a loss-of-function mutation in Abcg2 led to significantly lower urate transport and higher urate levels than were seen in cells expressing wild-type Abcg2 ($p<0.001$). An analysis of gout patients showed that the same ABCG2 mutation was significantly associated with increased urate levels that are typical of the disease ($p=5\times10^{-27}$). Next steps could include developing strategies to pharmacologically restore normal ABCG2 function in animal models of gout. ***SciBX*** **2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1017** **Published online June 25, 2009**	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Woodward, O.M. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online June 8, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901249106 **Contact:** Michael Köttgen, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: koettgen@jhmi.edu