

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermatology	X-box binding protein 1 (XBP1)	Genetic association studies identified a risk locus in <i>XBP1</i> that could help predict susceptibility to vitiligo, a skin disease characterized by loss of pigmentation. In three Chinese cohorts, a single variant in the promoter region of XBP1 was significantly associated with vitiligo ($p=2.94 \times 10^{-6}$). In patients, the risk allele led to stronger promoter activity and increased XBP1 expression in affected skin lesions than the non-risk allele. Next steps include identifying and determining the effect of an XBP1-targeting mAb on pathogenesis of vitiligo.	Patent application filed for genetics and molecular biology; available for licensing in China and other countries	Ren, Y. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online June 19, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000523 Contact: Xuejun Zhang, Anhui Medical University, Hefei, Anhui, China e-mail: ayzsj@vip.sina.com Contact: Jianjun Liu, Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore e-mail: liuj3@gis.a-star.edu.sg
		SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1045 Published online July 9, 2009		