SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Atrial fibrillation; stroke	Zinc finger homeobox 3 (ZFHX3; ATBF1)	Genomewide association studies suggest that sequence variants in *ZFHX3* are risk factors for atrial fibrillation and ischemic stroke. One study in six cohorts of individuals of European ancestry identified a correlation between atrial fibrillation and a SNP variant in *ZFHX3* (p=1.5×10^{-15}). A second study identified correlations between a second SNP variant in *ZFHX3* and atrial fibrillation (p=1.4×10^{-10}) and ischemic stroke (p=5.4×10^{-4}). Ongoing studies are investigating the biological role of *ZFHX3* in animal models of the two diseases. Future studies include determining whether *ZFHX3* variants predict outcomes of atrial fibrillation, such as stroke, heart failure and death. *SciBX* 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1121 Published online July 23, 2009	First study: unpatented; unlicensed. Second study: patent and licensing status unavailable	Benjamin, E. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.416 **Contact**: Emelia J Benjamin, Boston University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: emelia@bu.edu Gudbjartsson, D. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.417 **Contact**: This author can be contacted through Edward Farmer, Media Relations, deCODE Genetics, Reykjavik, Iceland e-mail: edward.farmer@decode.is