

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Psoriasis	Late cornified envelope 3B (LCE3B); LCE3C; SNP rs4085613; IL-23; NF-κB	<p>Three genomewide association studies identified SNPs that could be useful biomarkers for predicting susceptibility to psoriasis. In one study, absence of <i>LCE3B</i> and <i>LCE3C</i> was significantly associated with risk of psoriasis ($p=1.38 \times 10^{-8}$). A second study showed that the rs4085613 SNP within the <i>LCE</i> gene cluster was associated with disease susceptibility ($p=6.69 \times 10^{-30}$). A third study identified several additional genetic loci with a strong association for psoriasis, including three genes involved in IL-23 signaling and two genes that act downstream of tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α) and regulate NF-κB signaling ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ for all). Next steps include identifying the causative variants at the psoriasis susceptibility loci.</p> <p>Ustekinumab, a human mAb inhibiting IL-12 and IL-23 from Medarex Inc. and Johnson & Johnson, is approved in the EU for psoriasis and is under FDA review.</p> <p>ABT-874, a human mAb against IL-12 and IL-23 from Abbott Laboratories, is in Phase III testing to treat psoriasis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.127 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	<p>First study: the Centre for Genomic Regulation has patented the use of the <i>LCE3B/LCE3C</i> deletion for diagnosing predisposition and risk of developing psoriasis; unlicensed;</p> <p>Second study: patent application filed by Xue-Jan Zhang; licensing status is unclear;</p> <p>Third study: unpatented by Goncalo Abecasis; unlicensed</p>	<p>de Cid, R. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Jan. 25, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.313 Contact: Xavier Estivill, Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: xavier.estivill@crg.es</p> <p>Zhang, X. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Jan. 25, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.310 Contact: Xue-Jun Zhang, Anhui Medical University, Hefei, Anhui, China e-mail: ayzj@vip.sina.com</p> <p>Nair, R. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Jan. 25, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.311 Contact: Goncalo Abecasis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: goncalo@umich.edu</p>