

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT); CLPTM1-like (CLPTM1L); SNP rs401681; SNP rs2736098	<p>A genomewide association study identified <i>TERT</i> and <i>CLPTM1L</i> gene variants that could be useful biomarkers for predicting susceptibility to various types of cancer. Analysis of over 30,000 human samples spanning 16 types of cancer identified the rs401681 SNP, located on a <i>CLPTM1</i> intron, as significantly associated with lung cancer ($p=7.2 \times 10^{-8}$) and urinary bladder, prostate and cervix cancer ($p < 4 \times 10^{-4}$ for all). The SNP was also associated with protection against cutaneous melanoma ($p=8 \times 10^{-4}$). Another SNP, rs2736098, on the adjacent <i>TERT</i> gene, was also associated with cancers of the lung, bladder and cervix. Next steps include investigating the effects of these variants on the function and expression of <i>TERT</i> and <i>CLPTM1L</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.135 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Rafnar, T. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.296</p> <p>Contact: Kari Stefansson, deCODE Genetics, Reykjavik, Iceland e-mail: kstefans@decode.is</p> <p>Contact: Unnur Thorsteinsdottir, same affiliation as above e-mail: thorunn.rafnar@decode.is</p>