This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	Not applicable	A meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies revealed multiple SNPs that could be useful biomarkers for predicting susceptibility to obesity. The meta-analysis of 15 previously published studies found that six loci contained SNP variants significantly associated with increased body mass index (BMI; $p<5\times10^{-8}$). In a second, new genome-wide study, seven additional loci were found to contain SNP variants significantly associated with increased BMI and weight ($p<1.6\times10^{-7}$). Next steps include functional studies in animal models and identifying rare variants of the genes that may have a stronger association with obesity than those identified in the papers. *SciBX* **2**(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.17 Published online Jan. 8, 2009	Patent and licensing information for meta-analysis unavailable; findings from the second genome-wide association study are unpatented; licensing inquiries should be directed to deCode Genetics Inc. **Contact:** Johann Hjartason, deCode Genetics, Reykjavik, Iceland e-mail: johann@decode.is	Willer, C.J. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online Dec. 14, 2008; doi:10.1038/ng.287 **Contact:** Joel Hirschhorn, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Boston, Mass. e-mail: joelh@broad.mit.edu Thorleifsson, G. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online Dec. 14, 2008; doi:10.1038/ng.274 **Contact:** Gudmar Thorleifsson, deCode Genetics, Reykjavik, Iceland e-mail: thorleif@decode.is