This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Liver failure	Betaine-homocysteine methyltransferase 2 (BHMT2)	Studies in mice suggest that *S*-methylmethionine, the plant-derived substrate of BHMT2, could help prevent acetaminophen-induced liver toxicity. Metabolomic and genomic analyses in mice found that inactivating mutations in *Bhmt2* were associated with increased liver toxicity in response to acetaminophen treatment. *S*-Methylmethionine increased biosynthesis of protective glutathione and decreased liver toxicity in animals given acetaminophen. Next steps include clinical trials of *S*-methylmethionine to prevent acetaminophen-induced liver toxicity. ***SciBX*** **2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1740** **Published online Dec. 10, 2009**	Patent application filed covering use of *S*-methylmethionine to prevent acetaminophen toxicity in humans; available for licensing or partnering from Sandhill Bio Corp.	Liu, H.-H. *et al. Genome Res.*; published online Nov. 18, 2009; doi:10.1101/gr.097212.109 **Contact:** Hong-Hsing Liu, Roche Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Calif. e-mail: honghsing.liu@gmail.com