

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Gastrointestinal	Neuregulin 1 (NRG1)	<p>A genomewide association study identified two SNPs that may be useful for predicting susceptibility to Hirschsprung's disease, a congenital disorder characterized by lack of ganglia in sections of the distal large intestine. An analysis of 293,836 SNPs in 181 Chinese patients identified two susceptibility loci in <i>NRG1</i> associated with greater risk for the disease ($p=1.8 \times 10^{-8}$ for SNP rs16879552; $p=1.12 \times 10^{-9}$ for SNP rs7835688). Next steps include identifying additional genetic susceptibility variants for the disease to improve risk prediction.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.279 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Garcia-Barcelo, M.-M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0809630105 Contact: Paul Kwong-hang Tam, University of Hong Kong, Shenyang, China e-mail: paultam@hkucc.hku.hk Contact: Pak-chung Sham, same affiliation as above e-mail: pcsham@hku.hk Contact: Stacey S. Cherny, same affiliation as above e-mail: cherny@hku.hk</p>