

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Crohn's disease	NLR family pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3; NALP3)	<p>Genetic analysis studies suggest that genetic variation in the NLRP3 region of chromosome 1q44 could help predict susceptibility to Crohn's disease. In four separate sample sets of Crohn's disease patients and controls, several SNPs in the NLRP3 region were significantly associated with disease risk ($p=3.49 \times 10^{-9}$). The presence of certain SNPs also correlated with modified NLRP3 expression and IL-1β production, both of which have been linked to inflammatory diseases, including Crohn's disease. Next steps include further validation of the NLRP3 region as a marker for Crohn's disease.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.5 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Villani, A. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Dec. 21, 2008; doi:10.1038/ng.285</p> <p>Contact: Denis Franchimont, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium e-mail: Denis.Franchimont@erasme.ulb.ac.be</p> <p>Contact: Alexandra-Chloé Villani, McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: alexandra-chloe.villani@mail.mcgill.ca</p>