

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Pulmonary disease</b>				
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	Cholinergic receptor, nicotinic, $\alpha 3$ (CHRNA3); CHRNA5; hedgehog interacting protein (HHIP)	Genomewide association studies helped identify two susceptibility loci that could be targeted to treat COPD or to predict risk of the disease. In four independent cohorts, including COPD patients and controls who were smokers, two SNPs at the CHRNA3 and CHRNA5 locus were significantly associated with COPD ( $p=1.48 \times 10^{-10}$ and $p=5.74 \times 10^{-10}$ , respectively). In the same populations, the HHIP locus showed a nonsignificant association with COPD. Next steps include continuing an ongoing study in about 28,000 COPD patients and controls to further validate the loci and characterizing the biological role of the genes in COPD.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Pillai, S. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online March 20, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000421 <b>Contact:</b> David B. Goldstein, Duke University, Durham, N.C. e-mail: <a href="mailto:d.goldstein@duke.edu">d.goldstein@duke.edu</a> <b>Contact:</b> Sreekumar G. Pillai, GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development, Research Triangle Park, N.C. e-mail: <a href="mailto:sreekumar.g.pillai@gsk.com">sreekumar.g.pillai@gsk.com</a>
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