

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Vav 1 guanine nucleotide exchange factor (VAV1)	Genetic studies in rats and in humans suggest that inhibiting mutated VAV1 could help treat MS. In rat models of MS, genetic analysis identified a SNP in <i>Vav1</i> that was associated with the development of disease. In MS patients, genetic analysis identified the rs2546133-rs2617822 variant of <i>VAV1</i> as being associated with higher protein levels of VAV1, greater proinflammatory cytokine expression and higher risk of MS. Next steps could include complete sequencing of the <i>VAV1</i> gene and genomewide association studies in larger cohorts of MS patients.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Jagodic, M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Dec. 9, 2009; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000278 Contact: Tomas Olsson, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: tomas.olsson@ki.se Contact: Abdelhadi Saoudi, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Toulouse, France e-mail: abdelhadi.saoudi@inserm.fr
		SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.38 Published online Jan. 14, 2010		