

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune disease	<i>Sialic acid acetyltransferase (SIAE)</i>	A genetic study suggests that defects in <i>SIAE</i> are associated with increased susceptibility to autoimmune diseases. In a cohort of patients and controls of European decent, genetic analysis identified loss-of-function <i>SIAE</i> mutations in about 3% of patients with various autoimmune diseases compared with in less than 0.5% of healthy controls. The <i>SIAE</i> mutations resulted in an odds ratio of 8.31, 7.89 and 8.62 for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) ($p=0.0056$), type 1 diabetes ($p=0.0075$) and any autoimmune disease ($p=0.0002$), respectively. Next steps include exploring how the defects contribute to autoimmune diseases.	Patent pending covering diagnostic and therapeutic applications; available for licensing from the Massachusetts General Hospital Office of Corporate Sponsored Research & Licensing	Surolia, I. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 17, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09115 Contact: Shiv Pillai, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: Pillai@helix.mgh.harvard.edu
<p><i>SciBX</i> 3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.755 Published online June 24, 2010</p>				