This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Candida	Glucosylceramide	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that blocking glucosylceramide biosynthesis could help treat *Candida albicans* infection. A mouse-based infectivity screen of a *C. albicans* knockout library identified 115 mutant *C. albicans* strains with lower virulence than wild-type strains. *In vitro* analyses of the virulence-defective strains showed that four of the knockout mutations disrupted genes in the biosynthetic pathway for glucosylceramide. Separate testing of the mutant strains in mice confirmed that glucosylceramide was essential to *C. albicans* infectivity. Future studies could include testing inhibitors of glucosylceramide or glucosylceramide synthase (GCS) in models of *C. albicans* infection. Genzyme Corp.'s eliglustat tartrate (Genz-112638), a ceramide analog that inhibits GCS, is in Phase III testing to treat Gaucher's disease. ***SciBX*** **3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.772** **Published online June 24, 2010**	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Noble, S.M. *et al. Nat. Genet.*; published online June 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/ng.605 **Contact:** Suzanne M. Noble, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: suzanne.noble@ucsf.edu