This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Liver failure	Major histocompatibility complex class II DQ α 1 (HLA-DQA1)	<p>Genetic studies identified a variant of HLA that could help predict susceptibility to Prexige lumiracoxib-induced liver toxicity. In 217 patients receiving the cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitor, 7 SNPs were identified in the extended major histocompatibility complex (MHC) region that correlated with liver injury ($p < 7 \times 10^{-9}$). Genotyping of 714 patients identified an allele, <i>HLA-DQA1*0102</i>, that correlated with lumiracoxib-induced liver injury ($p = 1.2 \times 10^{-18}$). Next steps could include developing diagnostics for the allele and evaluating its potential use in conjunction with lumiracoxib treatment.</p> <p>Prexige was marketed outside the U.S. to treat pain associated with osteoarthritis (OA) but was withdrawn by Novartis AG in 2007 over liver toxicity concerns.</p> <p>In December 2009, Novartis resubmitted an application to the EMEA to market Prexige, under the new name Joicele, in combination with a companion diagnostic to treat pain in OA patients identified as noncarriers of the HLA-DQA1 biomarker.</p> <p>SciBX 3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.896 Published online July 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Singer, J.B. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online July 18, 2010; doi:10.1038/ng.632</p> <p>Contact: Charles Paulding, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: charles.paulding@novartis.com</p>