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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Retinitis	Dehydrodolichyl diphosphate synthase (DHDDS)	Two genetic studies identified a variant of DHDDS that could help treat and predict risk of retinitis pigmentosa. In one Ashkenazi Jewish family, a homozygous missense variant of the *DHDDS* gene was associated with the disease. In zebrafish, knockout of *dhdds* decreased responses to light, degenerated photoreceptor outer segments and reduced eye size compared with those in wild-type controls. In a second paper, a homozygosity mapping study identified 20 retinitis pigmentosa patients from 15 different Ashkenazi families with the *DHDDS* mutation. Next steps include developing an animal model of retinitis pigmentosa and testing therapies. *SciBX* 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.260 Published online March 3, 2011	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Züchner, S. *et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.*; published online Feb. 3, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2011.01.001 **Contact:** Margaret A. Peričak-Vance, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Fla. e-mail: mpericak@med.miami.edu **Contact:** Byron L. Lam, same affiliation as above e-mail: blam@med.miami.edu Zelinger, L. *et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.*; published online Feb. 3, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2011.01.002 **Contact:** Dror Sharon, Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel e-mail: dror.sharon1@gmail.com **Contact:** Samuel G. Jacobson, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: jacobsos@mail.med.upenn.edu