This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	Epidermal growth factor receptor 3 (HER3; ERBB3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting ERBB3 in the intestine could help treat colorectal cancer. In a mouse model of colon cancer, intestine-specific knockout of <i>ErbB3</i> almost completely eliminated intestinal tumors compared with what was seen in control mice. In a human colon cancer cell line, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of ERBB3 caused increased apoptosis. Next steps include developing inhibitor antibodies that target ERBB3.</p> <p>Merrimack Pharmaceuticals Inc. has MM-111 and MM-121, anti-ERBB3 antibodies, in preclinical and Phase I testing, respectively.</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1272 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Lee, D. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI36435</p> <p>Contact: David W. Threadgill, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: threadgill@ncsu.edu</p> <p>Contact: Daekee Lee, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: daekee@ewha.ac.kr</p>