This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer; gastric cancer	Ras association domain family member 2 (RASSF2); secreted frizzled-related protein 2 (SFRP2)	Studies of patient samples suggest that <i>RASSF2</i> and <i>SFRP2</i> methylation patterns could be used as markers for colorectal and gastric cancers. In primary colorectal and gastric cancer tissue samples, methylation of the promoter regions of the <i>RASSF2</i> and <i>SFRP2</i> genes was greater than that in the corresponding healthy tissues. The extent of each gene's methylation correlated with disease severity. Future studies could include optimizing the screen to reduce the rate of false positives, possibly by incorporating additional markers.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Nagasaka, T. <i>et al. J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i> ; published online Aug. 21, 2009; doi:10.1093/jnci/djp265 Contact: Takeshi Nagasaka, Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, Okayama, Japan e-mail: takeshin@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp
<i>SciBX</i> 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1274 Published online Aug. 27, 2009				