This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer; gastrointestinal cancer	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR); β -catenin (CTNNB1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that enhancing AHR signaling could help prevent intestinal and colorectal cancers. Ahr-deficient mice developed colonic tumors whereas mice with functional Ahr did not. Ahr-deficient mice had significantly higher Ctnnb1 levels in intestinal tissue than controls expressing Ahr ($p < 0.05$). Higher CTNNB1 levels are associated with the development of colorectal cancer. Next steps could include identifying AHR ligands as potential therapeutic targets for gastrointestinal cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1342 Published online Sept. 10, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Kawajiri, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902132106 Contact: Kaname Kawajiri, Saitama Cancer Center, Saitama, Japan e-mail: kawajiri@cancer-c.pref.saitama.jp</p>