This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	TRAF2 and NCK interacting kinase (TNIK)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that TNIK inhibitors could help treat colon cancer. In mouse small intestinal crypts and colon cancer cell lines, TNIK was recruited to promoters of Wnt target genes. In the colon cancer cells, small interfering RNA knockdown of TNIK led to lower transcription of Wnt target genes than that seen using control siRNA, suggesting TNIK activates Wnt signaling in colon cancer. Next steps could include developing small molecule TNIK inhibitors.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Mahmoudi, T. <i>et al. EMBO J.</i> ; published online Oct. 15, 2009; doi:10.1038/emboj.2009.285 Contact: Hans Clevers, Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: h.clevers@niob.knaw.nl
<i>SciBX</i> 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1566 Published online Oct. 29, 2009				