This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Adenomatous polyps	EPH receptor B2 (EPHB2); ABL tyrosine kinase (ABL; ABL1; c-ABL)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting EPHB2 or its downstream effector, ABL, could help reduce cancer risk in patients with familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). Mice expressing a constitutively active form of <i>EphB2</i> had greater cell proliferation in the intestinal epithelium than wild-type littermates. In these mice, compared with untreated controls, an EPHB2 inhibitor or the ABL inhibitor Gleevec imatinib blocked this increased Ephb2 signaling and cell proliferation. Next steps include long-term studies with adenomatous mice. Novartis AG markets Gleevec to treat chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST).</p> <p>SciBX 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1694 Published online Dec. 3, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Genander, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Nov. 13, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.08.048</p> <p>Contact: Jonas Frisen, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: jonas.frisen@ki.se</p>