This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Interleukin-6 signal transducer (IL-6ST; gp130); signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	<p>A study in mice suggests that cancer therapies targeting the gp130-STAT3 pathway should be modified to avoid eliciting colitis. Mice with intestinal epithelium-specific deletions of <i>Stat3</i> were resistant to colitis-induced cancer but developed more severe colonic inflammation than mice with intact <i>Stat3</i>. Conversely, mice with a hyperactive version of the STAT3 activator gp130 were resistant to colitis but showed greater tumor incidence and growth compared with what was seen in wild-type controls. Next steps could include devising ways to modulate STAT3 activity to optimize the balance of antiproliferative and proinflammatory effects.</p> <p>RTA 402, an antagonist of STAT3 and other proinflammatory transcription factors from Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase I/II trials for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.266 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Bollrath, J. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.01.002</p> <p>Contact: Florian R. Greten, Technical University Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: florian.greten@lrz.tum.de</p> <p>Contact: Matthias Ernst, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Parkville, Australia e-mail: matthias.ernst@ludwig.edu.au</p>