This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Leucine-rich repeat-containing G-protein coupled receptor 5 (LGR5; GPR49); adenomatous polyposis coli (APC)	<p>A study in mice suggests that LGR5 may be a marker and a potential target in colorectal cancer. In mice lacking the tumor suppressor Apc in their intestinal crypt, Lgr5⁺ stem cells showed rapid neoplastic transformation compared with that seen in untreated controls or mice with Apc deletions in other intestinal epithelial cells. LGR5⁺ stem cells regenerate the intestinal epithelium. Next steps include isolating LGR5⁺ cells to compare gene expression in normal and tumorigenic crypt stem cells.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.88 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	<p>Patent applications filed by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences for use of LGR5 as a colon cancer marker and a target for regenerative medicine; licensed to Agamyxis BV</p>	<p>Barker, N. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07602 Contact: Hans Clevers, Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: h.clevers@niob.knaw.nl</p>