This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Prominin 1 (PROM1; CD133); β-catenin (CTNNB1); leucine-rich repeat-containing G protein-coupled receptor 5 (LGR5; GPR49)	A study in mice suggests that PROM1 is a marker for cancer-prone intestinal crypt stem cells. In mice, <i>Prom1</i> expression in intestinal crypts overlapped with expression of the intestinal crypt cell marker <i>Lgr5</i> . In mice with induced <i>Ctnnb1</i> activity, <i>Prom1</i> ⁺ cells proliferated into intestinal tumors compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Next steps include isolating tumorigenic <i>Prom1</i> ⁺ cells, comparing them with normal crypt cells and transplanting them to a new host to show whether they act as cancer stem cells.	Unpatented; mouse strains available through the Mouse Models of Human Cancer Consortium	Zhu, L. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Dec. 17, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07589 Contact: Richard Gilbertson, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: richard.gilbertson@stjude.org
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