This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Adenomatous polyps	MAP kinase kinase 1 (MAP2K1; MEK1); MAP2K2 (MEK2); myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88 (MYD88)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that blocking the MEK-MYD88 signaling pathway could help treat familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). In mouse models of FAP, <i>Myd88</i> knockout animals had fewer and smaller intestinal polyps than wild-type controls. In wild-type FAP mice, a MEK1/MEK2 inhibitor reduced polyp formation and increased survival compared with vehicle control. Ongoing work includes determining whether the MEK-MYD88 pathway plays a role in colitis-induced cancer and other intestinal cancers.</p> <p>Eisai Co. Ltd.'s E6201, an inhibitor of MEK1 and MAP3K1 (MEKK1), is in Phase II testing and Phase I testing to treat psoriasis and solid tumors, respectively.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc's GSK1120212, an inhibitor of MEK1 and MEK2, is in Phase II testing to treat <i>BRAF</i> mutation-positive melanoma and relapsed or refractory leukemias and is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors and lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.584 Published online May 13, 2010</p>	Patent application filed by University of California, San Diego; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Lee, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online May 9, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2143</p> <p>Contact: Eyal Raz, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: eraz@ucsd.edu</p>