This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Colitis	Leucine-rich repeat-containing G protein-coupled receptor 5 (LGR5; GPR49)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest engraftment of stem cell-derived colon tissues could help treat colitis and other gastrointestinal epithelial injuries. Isolated <i>Lgr5</i>⁺ stem cells were expanded in culture to produce a single layer of colonic tissue that could be propagated for more than 10 weeks. In a mouse model of colitis, colonic delivery of the cultured tissue resulted in long-term engraftment and repair of damaged colonic epithelia and led to higher body weights than those in ungrafted controls. Next steps include refining the culture method and conforming it to GMP standards.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.341 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patent application filed by Tokyo Medical and Dental University; available for licensing	<p>Yui, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 11, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2695</p> <p>Contact: Mamoru Watanabe, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: mamoru.gast@tmd.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Hans Clevers, Hubrecht Institute and University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: h.clevers@hubrecht.eu</p>