This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Lipoteichoic acid (LTA)	<p>Mouse studies suggest LTA-deficient <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> could help prevent formation of gastrointestinal polyps, which are precursors to colorectal cancer. In mice with gastrointestinal polyps, oral treatment with LTA-deficient <i>L. acidophilus</i> decreased the frequency of polyps in the colon and ileum compared with treatment using an LTA-expressing strain or vehicle. Next steps include identifying and purifying <i>L. acidophilus</i> surface proteins that could be responsible for the antipolyp effect.</p> <p>SciBX 5(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.674 Published online June 28, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the University of Florida	<p>Khazaie, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 11, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1207230109 Contact: Mansour Mohamadzadeh, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. e-mail: m.zadeh@ufl.edu Contact: Todd R. Klaenhammer, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. e-mail: klaenhammer@ncsu.edu</p>