This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Colitis	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p>Mouse and infant studies suggest amniotic fluid could be used to prevent necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). In a mouse model of NEC, newborn mice receiving daily enteral delivery of amniotic fluid had less severe NEC than mice given Egf-depleted amniotic fluid or no treatment. In humans, premature infants with NEC had lower expression of intestinal EGFR than premature infants with resolved NEC. Next steps include clinical trials of the amniotic fluid delivery strategy to prevent NEC in premature infants.</p> <p>SciBX 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.728 Published online July 19, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Good, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 25, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1200856109 Contact: David J. Hackam, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: david.hackam@chp.edu</p>