This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	R-Spondin 2 (RSPO2); RSPO3	Human genomic studies suggest antagonizing <i>RSPO2</i> and <i>RSPO3</i> gene fusion proteins could be useful for treating colorectal cancer. Sequencing the transcriptomes of 68 colorectal cancer samples identified in-frame gene fusions encoding aberrant forms of <i>RSPO2</i> in 3% of tumors and aberrant forms of <i>RSPO3</i> in 8% of tumors. Human tumors with <i>RSPO2</i> and <i>RSPO3</i> fusion proteins both showed greater oncogenic wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT) signaling than controls lacking the fusion proteins. Next steps include developing animal models of the tumor-associated gene fusions and testing the effect of targeting these proteins. <i>SciBX</i> 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.949 Published online Sept. 13, 2012	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Seshagiri, S. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Aug. 15, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11282 Contact: Frederic J. de Sauvage, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: sauvage@gene.com Contact: Somasekar Seshagiri, same affiliation as above e-mail: sekar@gene.com