This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Colorectal cancer; colitis	Caspase recruitment domain family member 15 (CARD15; NOD2)	<p>Mouse studies suggest intestinal microbiota from organisms with functional NOD2 could help protect against colitis and colitis-associated colorectal cancer. Wild-type mice cohoused with <i>Nod2</i>-deficient mice showed greater susceptibility to chemically induced colitis and colitis-associated colorectal cancer than wild-type mice that were not housed with <i>Nod2</i>-deficient mice. In a mouse model of chemically induced colitis, <i>Nod2</i>-deficient animals that received a fecal transplant from wild-type animals showed decreased disease histopathology compared with those that received a fecal transplant from <i>Nod2</i>-deficient animals. Next steps include screening for probiotic bacterial strains that could reduce disease susceptibility and elucidating the mechanisms through which <i>Nod2</i> deficiency disrupts the gut microbiota.</p> <p>SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.95 Published online Jan. 31, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Couturier-Maillard, A. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Jan. 2, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI62236</p> <p>Contact: Mathias Chamaillard, Pasteur Institute in Lille, Lille, France e-mail: mathias.chamaillard@inserm.fr</p>