

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Transcription factor PROX1	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting the transcription factor PROX1 may be useful for treating colorectal cancer. In mice that overexpressed PROX1 in the intestinal epithelium, treatment with the colon carcinogen AOM led to significantly more and larger intestinal adenomas than those seen in wild-type controls ( $p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$ , respectively). Conversely, small hairpin RNA knockdown of PROX1 reduced the size and incidence of tumors in xenograft mice compared with those seen with shRNA knockdown of GFP in xenografts. Next steps include developing small molecule inhibitors of PROX1-mediated transcription and evaluating them in models of colorectal cancer.	Patent pending for colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis and therapy; available for licensing through Licentia Ltd.	Petrova, T.V. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online May 4, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2008.02.020 <b>Contact:</b> Kari Alitalo, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland e-mail: <a href="mailto:kari.alitalo@helsinki.fi">kari.alitalo@helsinki.fi</a> <b>Contact:</b> Tatiana V. Petrova, same affiliation as above e-mail: <a href="mailto:tatiana.petrova@helsinki.fi">tatiana.petrova@helsinki.fi</a>