

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Colorectal cancer	IL-6; signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting IL-6 and STAT3 signaling may help treat and prevent colitis-associated cancer. In a mouse model of the disease, IL-6<sup>-/-</sup> mice had lower tumor loads than wild-type controls. Mice with a conditional enterocyte Stat3 deletion developed fewer and smaller tumors than wild-type controls. Stat3 was required for transduction of tumor-promoting signals from IL-6. Next steps include evaluating STAT3 inhibitors and IL-6 antagonists in colon cancer pilot studies.</p> <p>RTA 402, a synthetic triterpenoid that inhibits the transcriptional activity of NF-κB and STAT3 from Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>At least seven other companies have compounds targeting IL-6 in Phase I or earlier to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.181 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Layre, E. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.01.001</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Michael Karin, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:karinoffice@ucsd.edu">karinoffice@ucsd.edu</a></p>