This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Irritable bowel syndrome (IBD)	Glioma-associated oncogene homolog 1 (GLI1)	Human genetic association data and <i>in vivo</i> mouse studies identified a member of the hedgehog signaling pathway, GLI1, as a potential target to treat IBD. In genomewide haplotype studies of >5,000 individuals from three independent patient populations and healthy Northern European controls, a variant of GLI1 with decreased activity was significantly associated with ulcerative colitis ($p < 0.0001$). In a mouse model of colitis, transgenic mice expressing only one copy of <i>Gli1</i> developed intestinal inflammation symptoms and showed higher mortality than wild-type mice. Further studies should evaluate the therapeutic potential of available hedgehog agonists and determine whether the compounds would have to be targeted to the intestines directly.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Lees, C. <i>et al. PLoS Med.</i> ; published online Dec. 9, 2008; doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050239 Contact: Deborah L. Gumucio, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: dgumucio@umich.edu Contact: Charlie W. Lees, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: Charlie.lees@ed.ac.uk
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