This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	Parkin (PARK2)	Human tissue and mouse studies suggest that increasing PARK2 expression could help treat colon cancer. PARK2 DNA copy numbers were increased in about one-third of tissue samples from 100 primary colorectal cancer patients. In an analysis of transcriptional profiles, lower PARK2 expression correlated with lower expression of *adenomatous polyposis coli* (*APC*; $p<0.001$), a gene often mutated in colorectal cancers. In mice expressing mutant *Apc*, heterozygous *Park2* knockout led to greater adenocarcinoma than normal *Park2* expression ($p<0.0001$). Next steps could include developing a strategy for increasing PARK2 expression.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Poulogiannis, G. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Aug. 9, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1009941107 **Contact:** Mark J. Arends, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: mja40@cam.ac.uk

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