

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	NLR family pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3; NALP3)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that enhancing NLRP3 signaling could help prevent colitis-associated cancer. <i>Nlrp3</i>-deficient mice had significantly more and larger polyps in the colon compared with levels in wild-type controls. In an inflammation-driven colon tumorigenesis model, <i>Nlrp3</i> deficiency led to increased severity of gastrointestinal disease compared with that in wild-type controls. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating a small molecule modulator of NLRP3 signaling.</p> <p>SciBX 3(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.493 Published online April 22, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Allen, I.C. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online April 12, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20100050</p> <p>Contact: Jenny P.-Y. Ting, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: panyun@med.unc.edu</p>