

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Colorectal cancer	Heparanase (HPSE)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest that inhibiting HPSE could help prevent or treat colon cancer. In human colon biopsies, <i>HPSE</i> expression was higher in individuals with acute and chronic colitis than in healthy controls. In a mouse model of colitis, <i>HPSE</i> overexpression increased the incidence and size of colon tumors compared with those in wild-type controls. Next steps include developing small molecules and antibodies against HPSE.</p> <p>Progen Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s PG545, a heparan sulfate mimetic inhibitor of HPSE, is in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>Sigma-Tau Group's SST0001, a chemically modified heparan inhibitor of HPSE, is in preclinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p><b>SciBX 4(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.454</b>  <b>Published online April 21, 2011</b></p>	Unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Lerner, I. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 1, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI43792</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Israel Vlodavsky, Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel            e-mail: <a href="mailto:vlodavsk@cc.huji.ac.il">vlodavsk@cc.huji.ac.il</a></p>