

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Gastrointestinal cancer	IL-11; IL-11 receptor	<p>Studies in human samples and mice suggest inhibiting IL-11 signaling could help treat gastrointestinal cancers. In patient tumor samples and in a mouse model of chemically induced colorectal cancer, IL-11 levels were higher than those in unaffected GI tissue. In a mouse model of spontaneous GI cancer, genetic depletion of an IL-11 receptor subunit decreased tumor burden compared with no depletion. In these mice and in two mouse xenograft models of human GI cancer, an IL-11 antagonist decreased tumor burden compared with no treatment. Next steps include validating the findings in additional models of human cancers and developing antibodies against IL-11.</p> <p>SciBX 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.958 Published online Sept. 12, 2013</p>	<p>The concept of using anti-IL-11 or anti-IL-11 receptor antagonists to treat cancer is patented by CSL Ltd. and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Ltd.; licensed to CSL</p>	<p>Putoczki, T.L. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Aug. 12, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.06.017 Contact: Matthias Ernst, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Ltd., Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: matthias.ernst@wehi.edu.au Contact: Tracy L. Putoczki, same affiliation as above e-mail: tracy.putoczki@wehi.edu.au</p>