

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Colon cancer	Guanylyl cyclase 2C (heat-stable enterotoxin receptor; GUCY2C)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that immunization with GUCY2C could help treat or prevent metastatic colon cancer. In healthy mice, immunization with GUCY2C-expressing viral vectors before challenge with GUCY2C-expressing mouse colon cancer cells minimized metastasis to the liver and lungs compared with that seen in mock-treated control mice (<math>p=0.008</math> and <math>p&lt;0.001</math>, respectively). In mice with established metastases, median survival was 38 days for immunized mice compared with 29 days for untreated mice (<math>p=0.024</math>). The antitumor and pro-survival effects occurred without autoimmune reactions. Completion of safety and efficacy studies in animals, as well as GMP studies, are necessary before the vaccine enters the clinic.</p> <p>Castillo Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s SP-304, a GUCY2C agonist, is in Phase I testing to treat irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). Ironwood Pharmaceuticals and Forest Laboratories are developing MD-1100, a GUCY2C agonist that is in Phase II testing to treat constipation and IBS.</p>	<p>Patent applications submitted; Targeted Diagnostics &amp; Therapeutics Inc. has exclusive worldwide rights to the GUCY2C cancer technology and has sublicensed most of the cancer applications to Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc.; some of the vaccine applications available for sublicensing</p>	<p>Snook, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i>; published online June 24, 2008; doi:10.1093/jnci/djn178</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Scott A. Waldman, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: <a href="mailto:scott.waldman@jefferson.edu">scott.waldman@jefferson.edu</a></p>