WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anti-hPG monoclonal antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of human progastrin (hPG) ~~which is obtainable using an immunogen comprising a peptide antigen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:27~~ wherein said anti-hPG monoclonal antibody yields a statistically significant reduction in the number of live colorectal cancer cell lines after *in vitro* treatment of a test sample as compared to a control sample treated with a non-specific monoclonal antibody.

2. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which is obtainable using an immunogen comprising a peptide antigen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:27.

~~2.~~ 3. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which competes for binding hPG with a reference anti-hPG monoclonal antibody obtainable from a hybridoma selected from the group consisting of 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4371~~)~~, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4372~~)~~, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4373~~)~~, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4374~~)~~ and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4375~~)~~.

~~3.~~ 4. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which comprises V_L and V_H CDRs corresponding in sequence to the V_L and V_H CDRs of the monoclonal antibodies obtainable from a hybridoma selected from the group consisting of: 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4371~~)~~, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4372~~)~~, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4373~~)~~, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4374~~)~~ and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4375~~)~~.

~~4.~~ 5. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which comprises V_H and V_L CDRs having sequences selected from one of the following groups of V_H and V_L CDR sequences:

(i) V_H CDR 1.8 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:37~~)~~, V_H CDR 2.8 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:41~~)~~, V_H CDR 3.8 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:45~~)~~, V_L CDR 1.8 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:49~~)~~, V_L CDR 2.8 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:52~~)~~, and V_L CDR 3.8 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:55~~)~~; and

(ii) V_H CDR 1.13 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:38~~)~~, V_H CDR 2.13 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:42~~)~~, V_H CDR 3.13 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:46~~)~~, V_L CDR 1.13 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:50~~)~~, V_L CDR 2.13 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:53~~)~~, and V_L CDR 3.13 of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:56~~)~~.

~~5.~~ 6. A monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-~~4~~ 5**, which is humanized.

~~6.~~ 7. The monoclonal antibody of **claim ~~5~~ 6** which comprises V_H and V_L chains having sequences selected from one of the following groups of V_H and V_L sequences:

(i) hV_H 8a of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:75~~)~~ and hV_L 8a of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:76~~)~~;

(ii) hV_H 8b of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:77~~)~~ and hV_L 8b of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:78~~)~~;

(iii) hV_H 8c of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:79~~)~~ and hV_L 8c of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:76~~)~~;

(iv) hV_H 13a of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:80~~)~~ and hV_L 13a of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:81~~)~~; and

(v) hV_H 13b of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:82~~)~~ and hV_L 13b of ~~(~~SEQ ID NO:83~~)~~.

~~7. The monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-6** which has an affinity in the range of about 1 pM to about 7 nM.~~

8. The monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-7** that binds to an epitope comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 33, 34, 35, and 36.

9. The monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-8** which competes for binding hPG with a reference antibody selected from the group consisting of: ~~anti-hPG MAb5, anti-hPG MAb6, anti-hPG MAb7, anti-hPG MAb8, anti-hPG MAb9, anti-hPG MAb10, anti-hPG MAb11, anti-hPG MAb12, anti-hPG MAb13, anti-hPG MAb14, anti-hPG MAb21, anti-hPG MAb22, and anti-hPG MAb23~~

(a) the monoclonal antibodies obtainable from a hybridoma selected from the group consisting of: 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. I-4371, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. I-4372, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. I-4373, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. I-4374 and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. I-4375; or

(b) the monoclonal antibodies having sequences selected from one of the following groups:

(i) V_H CDR 1.8 of SEQ ID NO:37, V_H CDR 2.8 of SEQ ID NO:41, V_H CDR 3.8 of SEQ ID NO:45, V_L CDR 1.8 of SEQ ID NO:49, V_L CDR 2.8 of SEQ ID NO:52, and V_L CDR 3.8 of SEQ ID NO:55; and

(ii) V_H CDR 1.13 of SEQ ID NO:38, V_H CDR 2.13 of SEQ ID NO:42, V_H CDR 3.13 of SEQ ID NO:46, V_L CDR 1.13 of SEQ ID NO:50, V_L CDR 2.13 of SEQ ID NO:53 and V_L CDR 3.13 of SEQ ID NO:56.

10. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which neutralizes hPG activity in an *in vitro* assay carried out with LS174T cells.

11. A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-10** in an effective amount and an excipient, carrier, and/or diluent.

12. The composition of **claim 11** which is formulated for pharmaceutical use.

13. A polynucleotide encoding a variable light chain (V_L) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-~~6~~ 7**.

14. A polynucleotide encoding a variable heavy chain (V_H) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-~~6~~ 7**.

15. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to **claim 11** encoding a variable light chain (V_L) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody ~~according to **claim 1**~~.

16. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to **claim 12** encoding a variable heavy chain (V_H) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to **claim 1**.

17. A host cell transformed with pairs of polynucleotides according to **claims 11 and 12** suitable for expressing an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody ~~according to any one of **claims 1-10**~~.

18. A hybridoma capable of secreting an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to anyone of **claims 1-10**.

19. The hybridoma of **claim 18**, which is selected from the group consisting of: 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4371~~)~~, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4372~~)~~, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4373~~)~~, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4374~~)~~ and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. ~~(~~I-4375~~)~~.

20. A method of obtaining an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody comprising:

(i) culturing a hybridoma of **claim 18** under suitable conditions and

(ii) recovering the anti-hPG monoclonal antibody from the culture medium or the hybridoma cells.

21. ~~A method of treating colorectal cancer comprising administering to a subject an amount~~ Use of an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody of anyone of **claims 1-10** ~~effective to treat~~ for the manufacture of a medicament for treating the colorectal cancer.

22. ~~A method of inhibiting proliferation of colorectal tumor cells, comprising exposing the colorectal tumor cells to~~ Use of an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody of anyone of **claims 1-10** for the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting proliferation of colorectal tumor cells.

23. A kit useful for detecting hPG, comprising an N-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody and an antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of hPG.

24. The kit of **claim 23**, wherein the antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of hPG is a polyclonal antibody.

25. A kit useful for detecting hPG, comprising a C-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to **claims 1-10** and an antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region of hPG.

26. The kit of **claim 25**, wherein the antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region of hPG is a polyclonal antibody.

27. A method of diagnosing colorectal cancer in a subject, comprising quantifying the amount of progastrin in a serum sample from the subject using at least one monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-10**, wherein a quantity of progastrin in a range of about 20 to 400 pM is indicative of colorectal cancer.

28. A method of selecting a patient suitable for anti-hPG therapy, comprising quantifying the amount of progastrin in a serum sample from a patient with colorectal cancer, using at least one monoclonal antibody according to anyone of **claims 1-10**, wherein a quantity of progastrin in a range of about 20 to 400 pM is indicative of suitability for anti-hPG therapy.

~~29. A method of monitoring the effectiveness of a colorectal cancer treatment, comprising quantifying the blood progastrin level of a subject who is being treated for colorectal cancer, as a function of time, using at least one monoclonal antibody according to~~

~~anyone of **claims 1-10**, where a time-dependent decrease in the subject's serum progastrin level indicates the treatment is effective.~~

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anti-hPG monoclonal antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of human progastrin (hPG) wherein said anti-hPG monoclonal antibody yields a statistically significant reduction in the number of live colorectal cancer cell lines after *in vitro* treatment of a test sample as compared to a control sample treated with a non-specific monoclonal antibody.

2. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which is obtainable using an immunogen comprising a peptide antigen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:27.

3. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which competes for binding hPG with a reference anti-hPG monoclonal antibody obtainable from a hybridoma selected from the group consisting of 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. I-4371, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. I-4372, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. I-4373, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. I-4374 and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. I-4375.

4. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which comprises V_L and V_H CDRs corresponding in sequence to the V_L and V_H CDRs of the monoclonal antibodies obtainable from a hybridoma selected from the group consisting of: 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. I-4371, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. I-4372, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. I-4373, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. I-4374 and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. I-4375.

5. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which comprises V_H and V_L CDRs having sequences selected from one of the following groups of V_H and V_L CDR sequences:

(i) V_H CDR 1.8 of SEQ ID NO:37, V_H CDR 2.8 of SEQ ID NO:41, V_H CDR 3.8 of SEQ ID NO:45, V_L CDR 1.8 of SEQ ID NO:49, V_L CDR 2.8 of SEQ ID NO:52, and V_L CDR 3.8 of SEQ ID NO:55; and

(ii) V_H CDR 1.13 of SEQ ID NO:38, V_H CDR 2.13 of SEQ ID NO:42, V_H CDR 3.13 of SEQ ID NO:46, V_L CDR 1.13 of SEQ ID NO:50, V_L CDR 2.13 of SEQ ID NO:53 and V_L CDR 3.13 of SEQ ID NO:56.

6. A monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-5**, which is humanized.

7. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 6** which comprises V_H and V_L chains having sequences selected from one of the following groups of V_H and V_L sequences:

(i) hV_H 8a of SEQ ID NO:75 and hV_L 8a of SEQ ID NO:76;

(ii) hV_H 8b of SEQ ID NO:77 and hV_L 8b of SEQ ID NO:78;

(iii) hV_H 8c of SEQ ID NO:79 and hV_L 8c of SEQ ID NO:76;

(iv) hV_H 13a of SEQ ID NO:80 and hV_L 13a of SEQ ID NO:81; and

(v) hV_H 13b of SEQ ID NO:82-and hV_L 13b of SEQ ID NO:83.

8. The monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-7** that binds to an epitope comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 33, 34, 35, and 36.

9. The monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-8** which competes for binding hPG with a reference antibody selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the monoclonal antibodies obtainable from a hybridoma selected from the group consisting of: 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. I-4371, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. I-4372, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. I-4373, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. I-4374 and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. I-4375; or

(b) the monoclonal antibodies having sequences selected from one of the following groups:

(i) V_H CDR 1.8 of SEQ ID NO:37, V_H CDR 2.8 of SEQ ID NO:41, V_H CDR 3.8 of SEQ ID NO:45, V_L CDR 1.8 of SEQ ID NO:49, V_L CDR 2.8 of SEQ ID NO:52, and V_L CDR 3.8 of SEQ ID NO:55; and

(ii) V_H CDR 1.13 of SEQ ID NO:38, V_H CDR 2.13 of SEQ ID NO:42, V_H CDR 3.13 of SEQ ID NO:46, V_L CDR 1.13 of SEQ ID NO:50, V_L CDR 2.13 of SEQ ID NO:53 and V_L CDR 3.13 of SEQ ID NO:56.

10. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** which neutralizes hPG activity in an *in vitro* assay carried out with LS174T cells.

11. A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-10** in an effective amount and an excipient, carrier, and/or diluent.

12. The composition of **claim 11** which is formulated for pharmaceutical use.

13. A polynucleotide encoding a variable light chain (V_L) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7**.

14. A polynucleotide encoding a variable heavy chain (V_H) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7**.

15. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to **claim 11** encoding a variable light chain (V_L) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody.

16. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to **claim 12** encoding a variable heavy chain (V_H) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to **claim 1**.

17. A host cell transformed with pairs of polynucleotides according to **claims 11 and 12** suitable for expressing an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody.

18. A hybridoma capable of secreting an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to anyone of **claims 1-10**.

19. The hybridoma of **claim 18**, which is selected from the group consisting of: 1B4A11D11 as registered under no. I-4371, 1B6A11F2 as registered under no. I-4372, 1B11E4B11 as registered under no. I-4373, 2B4C8C8 as registered under no. I-4374 and 2B11E6G4 as registered under no. I-4375.

20. A method of obtaining an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody comprising:

(i) culturing a hybridoma of **claim 18** under suitable conditions and

(ii) recovering the anti-hPG monoclonal antibody from the culture medium or the hybridoma cells.

21. Use of an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody of anyone of **claims 1-10** for the manufacture of a medicament for treating the colorectal cancer.

22. Use of an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody of anyone of **claims 1-10** for the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting proliferation of colorectal tumor cells.

23. A kit useful for detecting hPG, comprising an N-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody and an antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of hPG.

24. The kit of **claim 23**, wherein the antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of hPG is a polyclonal antibody.

25. A kit useful for detecting hPG, comprising a C-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to **claims 1-10** and an antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region of hPG.

26. The kit of **claim 25**, wherein the antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region of hPG is a polyclonal antibody.

27. A method of diagnosing colorectal cancer in a subject, comprising quantifying the amount of progastrin in a serum sample from the subject using at least one monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-10**, wherein a quantity of progastrin in a range of about 20 to 400 pM is indicative of colorectal cancer.

28. A method of selecting a patient suitable for anti-hPG therapy, comprising quantifying the amount of progastrin in a serum sample from a patient with colorectal cancer, using at least one monoclonal antibody according to anyone of **claims 1-10**, wherein a quantity of progastrin in a range of about 20 to 400 pM is indicative of suitability for anti-hPG therapy.