WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising an antibody that specifically binds to progastrin for use in a method for preventing or preventing recurrence or treating metastatic colorectal cancer, wherein a therapeutically effective amount of the composition is administered to patient in need thereof.

2. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the metastatic colorectal cancer is located in liver, lung, brain or lymph node.

3. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the administration of the anti-progastrin antibody composition is effected before or after surgical resection of a metastatic colorectal tumor.

4. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the administration of the anti-progastrin antibody composition is effected before or after administration of a dose of radiation therapy of a metastatic colorectal tumor.

5. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the administration of the anti-progastrin antibody composition is effected before, concurrently with or after administration of a chemotherapeutic agent to treat a metastatic colorectal tumor.

6. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the administration of the anti-progastrin antibody composition is effected before, simultaneously or after administration of a second therapeutic antibody with specificity other than for progastrin.

7. The composition for use according to **claim 6**, wherein the second antibody specifically binds VEGF or EGFR.

8. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the anti-progastrin antibody is selected from among the group consisting of: polyclonal antibodies, monoclonal antibodies, humanized monoclonal antibodies, chimeric antibodies, single chain antibodies, camelized antibodies, IgA1 antibodies, IgA2 antibodies, IgD antibodies, IgE antibodies, IgG1 antibodies, IgG2 antibodies, IgG3 antibodies, IgG4 antibodies, and IgM antibodies.

9. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the antibody is conjugated to a moiety.

10. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the antibody has a progastrin binding affinity of at least about 0.001 nM to at least about 5000 nM.

11. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the composition comprises a plurality of antibodies having specificities for distinct epitopes of progastrin.

12. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the progastrin specific antibody is a monoclonal antibody selected from among the group consisting of: MAb1, MAb2, MAb3, MAb4, MAb5, MAb6, MAb7, MAb8, MAb9, MAb10, MAb11, MAb12, MAb13, MAb14, MAb15, MAb16, MAb17, MAb18, MAb19, MAb20, MAb21, MAb22 and MAb23.

13. The composition for use according to **claim 12**, wherein the monoclonal antibody is humanized.

14. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the progastrin specific antibody is a monoclonal antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region ($V_H$) in which complementarity determining region 1 (CDR1) is selected from $V_H$ CDR 1.3, $V_H$ CDR 1.4, $V_H$ CDR 1.8, $V_H$ CDR 1.13, $V_H$ CDR 1.16, $V_H$ CDR 1.19, CDR2 is selected from $V_H$ CDR 2.3, $V_H$ CDR 2.4, $V_H$ CDR 2.8, $V_H$ CDR 2.13, $V_H$ CDR 2.16, $V_H$ CDR 2.19, and CDR3 is selected from $V_H$ CDR 3.3, $V_H$ CDR 3.4, $V_H$ CDR 3.8, $V_H$ CDR 3.13, $V_H$ CDR 3.16, $V_H$ CDR 3.19 and/or a light chain variable region ($V_L$) in which complementarity determining region 1 (CDR1) is selected from $V_L$ CDR 1.3, $V_L$ CDR 1.4, $V_L$ CDR 1.8, $V_L$ CDR 1.13, $V_L$ CDR 1.16, $V_L$ CDR 1.19, CDR2 is selected from $V_L$ CDR 2.3, $V_L$ CDR 2.4, $V_L$ CDR 2.8, $V_L$ CDR 2.13, $V_L$ CDR 2.16, $V_L$ CDR 2.19, and CDR3 is selected from $V_L$ CDR 3.3, $V_L$ CDR 3.4, $V_L$ CDR 3.8, $V_L$ CDR 3.13, $V_L$ CDR 3.16, $V_L$ CDR 3.19.

15. The composition for use according to **claim 1**, wherein the anti-progastrin antibody is administered at a dose from about 0.001 mg/kg to about 250 mg/kg.

16. The composition for use according to **claim 15**, wherein the dose of the anti-progastrin antibody is administered over a plurality of temporally spaced administrations.

17. A method for inhibiting the growth of a colorectal cancer stem cell in a patient, comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of inhibition of growth of a colorectal cancer stem cell of a composition comprising an antibody that specifically binds to progastrin in an amount effective to inhibit said colorectal cancer stem cell.

18. A method for monitoring the efficacy of a treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer in a patient comprising the steps: (i) determining the concentration of progastrin in a first sample obtained from a patient before treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer, and (ii) comparing the concentration of progastrin in said first sample to that in a second sample obtained from the same patient after treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer, wherein a reduction in the concentration of progastrin in said second sample compared to said first sample is indicative that the treatment was effective.

19. A method for diagnosing the presence of colorectal cancer in a patient comprising the steps: (i) determining the concentration of progastrin in a sample obtained from a patient suspected of having colorectal cancer, and (ii) comparing the concentration of progastrin in said sample to a predetermined value, wherein an elevated level of progastrin in the sample compared to the predetermined value is indicative of the presence of colorectal cancer in said patient.

20. The method according to **claims 18 and 19**, wherein the step of determining the concentration of progastrin in said sample is effected using an assay that employs an antibody that specifically binds to progastrin.

**The claims defining the invention are as follows:**

1. A method for treating, preventing or preventing recurrence of metastatic colorectal cancer, comprising the step of administering to a human patient in need of treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an anti-hPG antibody, wherein said anti-hPG antibody is a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to human progastrin polypeptide (hPG) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:101 but does not detectably bind to an amidated gastrin 17 consisting of SEQ ID NO:104, a glycine-extended gastrin 17 consisting of SEQ ID NO:105, or C-terminal Flanking Peptide (CTFP) consisting of SEQ ID NO:106.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said metastatic colorectal cancer is located in liver, lung, brain or lymph node.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the step of administering said composition is effected before surgical resection of a metastatic colorectal tumor.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the step of administering said composition is effected after surgical resection of a metastatic colorectal tumor.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said composition is administered adjunctive to chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said chemotherapy includes administering a chemotherapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of: folate antagonists, purine antagonists, pyrimidine antagonists, DNA alkylating agents, DNA cross-linking drugs, antibiotics, platinum complexes, proteosome inhibitors, mitotic spindle poisons, topoisomerase inhibitors, and tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the composition is administered adjunctive to a second antibody that specifically binds VEGF or EGFR.

8. The method of claim 7 in which the second antibody is cetuximab, panitumumab or bevacizumab.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said anti-hPG antibody is a humanized antibody.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said humanized antibody has a progastrin binding affinity in a range of about 0.001 nM to about 5000 nM.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein said composition is administered by a mode of administration selected from among the group consisting of: parenteral administration, intrathecal administration, subcutaneous administration, intravenous administration, intramuscular administration, intraperitoneal administration, infusion administration, and bolus administration.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said composition is administered at an anti-hPG antibody dose ranging from about 0.001 mg/kg to about 250 mg/kg.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the anti-hPG antibody dose is administered over a plurality of temporally spaced administrations.

14. A method of inhibiting proliferation of a metastatic colorectal cancer stem cell, comprising exposing the metastatic colorectal cancer stem cell to an amount of an anti-hPG antibody effective to inhibit its proliferation, wherein said anti-hPG antibody is a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to human progastrin polypeptide (hPG) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:101 but does not detectably bind to an amidated gastrin 17 consisting of SEQ ID NO:104, a glycine-extended gastrin 17 consisting of SEQ ID NO:105, or C-terminal Flanking Peptide (CTFP) consisting of SEQ ID NO:106.

15. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14 in which the anti-hPG antibody is an N-terminal anti-hPG antibody.

16. The method of claim 15 in which the N-terminal anti-hPG antibody is raised against an immunogen comprising a peptide having the sequence SWKPRSQQPDAPLG (SEQ ID NO:25).

17. The method of claim 15 or 16 in which the N-terminal anti-hPG antibody competes for binding to hPG with a reference antibody selected from

(a) a monoclonal antibody comprising a heavy variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 and a light chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:13;

(b) a monoclonal antibody comprising a heavy variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:61 and a light chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:65; and

(c) a monoclonal antibody comprising a heavy variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:62 and a light chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:66.

18. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14 in which the anti-hPG antibody is a C-terminal anti-hPG antibody.

19. The method of claim 18 or 19 in which the C-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody is raised against an immunogen comprising a peptide having the sequence QGPWLEEEEEAYGWMDFGRRSAEDEN (SEQ ID NO:27).

20. The method of claim 18 in which the C-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody competes for binding to hPG with a reference antibody selected from :

(a) a monoclonal antibody comprising a heavy chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:59 and a light chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:63;

(b) a monoclonal antibody comprising a heavy chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:60 and a light chain variable domain sequence of SEQ ID NO:64.

21. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the N-terminal anti-hPG antibody binds an epitope in an N-terminal epitope region of hPG comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:28, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:29, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:30, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:31 or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:32.

22. The method of claim 18 or 19, wherein the C-terminal anti-hPG antibody binds an epitope in a C-terminal epitope region of hPG comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:33, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:34, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:35 or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36.

23. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein said anti-hPG monoclonal antibody comprises

a) a heavy chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 1.3 (SEQ ID NO:1), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 2.3 (SEQ ID NO:2), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 3.3 (SEQ ID NO:3), and a light chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 1.3 (SEQ ID NO:4), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 2.3 (SEQ ID NO:5), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 3.3 (SEQ ID NO:6) or

b) a heavy chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 1.8 (SEQ ID NO:37), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 2.8 (SEQ ID NO:41), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 3.8 (SEQ ID NO:45), and a light chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 1.8 (SEQ ID NO:49), CDR2 comprises the amino acid

sequence of VL CDR 2.8 (SEQ ID NO:52), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 3.8 (SEQ ID NO:55) or

c) a heavy chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 1.13 (SEQ ID NO:38), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 2.13 (SEQ ID NO:42), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 3.13 (SEQ ID NO:46), and a light chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 1.13 (SEQ ID NO:50), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 2.13 (SEQ ID NO:53), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 3.13 (SEQ ID NO:56) or

d) a heavy chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 1.16 (SEQ ID NO:39), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 2.16 (SEQ ID NO:43), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 3.16 (SEQ ID NO:47), and a light chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 1.16 (SEQ ID NO:50), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 2.16 (SEQ ID NO:53), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 3.16 (SEQ ID NO:57) or

e) a heavy chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 1.19 (SEQ ID NO:40), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 2.19 (SEQ ID NO:44), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VH CDR 3.19 (SEQ ID NO:48), and a light chain variable region in which CDR1 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 1.19 (SEQ ID NO:51), CDR2 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 2.19 (SEQ ID NO:54), and CDR3 comprises the amino acid sequence of VL CDR 3.19 (SEQ ID NO:58).