WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region or a C-terminal region of human progastrin (hPG).

2. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 1** that is obtainable using:

(i) an immunogen comprising a peptide antigen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:25, or

(ii) an immunogen comprising a peptide antigen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:27.

3. The monoclonal antibody of any one of claims 1-2, said antibody being selected in the group consisting of:

- a monoclonal antibody produced by an hybridoma chosen between the hybridoma CNCM I-4371, the hybridoma CNCM I-4372, the hybridoma CNCM I-4373, the hybridoma CNCM I-4374, the hybridoma CNCM I-4375, and the hybridoma CNCM I-4376, all deposited in accordance with the Treaty of Budapest on October 6, 2010 by the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganisms (CNCM), Institut Pasteur, Paris, France; and
- a monoclonal antibody comprising VL and VH CDRs having sequences selected from one of the following groups of VL and VH CDR sequences:

(i) V_H CDR1.3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, V_H CDR 2.3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, V_H CDR 3.3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, V_L CDR 1.3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, V_L CDR 2.3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, and V_L CDR 3.3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6;

(ii) V_H CDR 1.4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, V_H CDR 2.4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, V_H CDR 3.4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, V_L CDR 1.4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, V_L CDR 2.4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, and V_L CDR 3.4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11;

(iii) V_H CDR 1.16 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39, V_H CDR 2.16 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 43, V_H

CDR 3.16 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47, V_L CDR 1.16 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50, V_L CDR 2.16 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 53, and V_L CDR 3.16 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57;

(iv) V_H CDR 1.19 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 40, V_H CDR 2.19 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 44, V_H CDR 3.19 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 48, V_L CDR 1.19 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 51, V_L CDR 2.19 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 54, and V_L CDR 3.19 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 58; and

(v) VH CDR 1.13 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38, VH CDR 2.13 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 42, VH CDR 3.13 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46, VL CDR 1.13 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50, VL CDR 2.13 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 53, and VL CDR 3.13 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 56.

4. The monoclonal antibody of any one of claims 1-3, wherein said anti-hPG monoclonal antibody comprises VH and VL chains having sequences selected from one of the following groups of VH and VL sequences:

(i) mV_H 3 (SEQ ID NO:12) and mV_L 3 (SEQ ID NO:13);
(ii) mV_H 4 (SEQ ID NO:14) and mV_L 4 (SEQ ID NO:15);
(iii) mV_H 16 (SEQ ID NO:61) and mV_L 16 (SEQ ID NO:65);
(iv) mV_H 19 (SEQ ID NO:62) and mV_L 19 (SEQ ID NO:66); and
(v) mV_H 13 (SEQ ID NO:60) and mV_L 13 (SEQ ID NO:64).

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

6. The monoclonal antibody of **claim 5** which comprises VH and VL chains having sequences selected from one of the following groups of VH and VL sequences:

(vi) hVH 3 (SEQ ID NO:21) and hVL 3 (SEQ ID NO:22);
(vii) hVH 4 (SEQ ID NO:23) and hVL 4 (SEQ ID NO:24);
(viii) hVH 16a (SEQ ID NO:84) and hVL 16a (SEQ ID NO:85);
(ix) hVH 16b (SEQ ID NO:86) and hVL 16b (SEQ ID NO:87);
(x) hVH 16c (SEQ ID NO:88) and hVL 16c (SEQ ID NO:89);
(xi) hVH 19a (SEQ ID NO:90) and hVL 19a (SEQ ID NO:91);

(xii) hVH 19b (SEQ ID NO:92) and hVL 19b (SEQ ID NO:93);
(xiii) hVH 19c (SEQ ID NO:94) and hVL 19c (SEQ ID NO:95);
(xiv) hVH 13a (SEQ ID NO:80) and hVL 13a (SEQ ID NO:81); and
(xv) hVH 13b (SEQ ID NO:82) and hVL 13b (SEQ ID NO:83).

7. The monoclonal antibody of any one of **claims 1-6** that binds to:

(i) an epitope comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, or
(ii) 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.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7** and an excipient, carrier, and/or diluent.

9. A polynucleotide encoding a variable light chain (VL) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7** and/or a variable heavy chain (VH) for an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7**.

10. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to **claim 9**.

11. A host cell transformed with pairs of polynucleotides suitable for expressing an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7**.

12. A method of producing an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody comprising:
(a) culturing the host cell of **claim 11** under suitable conditions and
(b) recovering the anti-hPG monoclonal antibody from the culture medium or the hybridoma cells.

13. The use of an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7** in the manufacture of a medicament for treating colorectal cancer.

14. The use of an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7** in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting proliferation of colorectal tumor cells.

15. A kit useful for detecting hPG, comprising:

(i) an N-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one **claims 1-7** and an antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of hPG; or

(ii) a C-terminal anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to any one **claim 1-7** and an antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region of hPG.

16. The kit of **claim 15**, wherein:

- the antibody that specifically binds a C-terminal region of hPG of (i) is a polyclonal antibody; or
- the antibody that specifically binds an N-terminal region of hPG of (ii) is a polyclonal antibody.

17. 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 1-7**, wherein a quantity of progastrin in a range of 20 to 400 pM is indicative of colorectal cancer.

18. 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 1-7**, wherein a quantity of progastrin in a range of 20 to 400 pM is indicative of suitability for anti-hPG therapy.

19. 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 1-7**, where a time-dependent decrease in the subject's serum progastrin level indicates the treatment is effective.

20. The use of an anti-PG monoclonal antibody according to any one of **claims 1-7** in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting a progastrin-dependent signal transduction cascade in a cell.

21. A hybridoma capable of secreting an anti-hPG monoclonal antibody according to anyone of **claims 1-7**, wherein said hybridoma is chosen between the hybridoma CNCM I-4371, the hybridoma CNCM I-4372, the hybridoma CNCM I-4373, the hybridoma CNCM I-4374, the hybridoma CNCM I-4375, and the hybridoma CNCM I-4376, all deposited in accordance with the Treaty of Budapest on October 6, 2010 by the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganisms (CNCM), Institut Pasteur, Paris, France.