This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	MicroRNA-326 (miRNA-326)	<p>A study in patients and in mice suggests that inhibiting miRNA-326 could help treat MS. Peripheral blood leukocytes isolated from patients with relapsing MS had significantly higher miRNA-326 expression than samples from patients with remitting MS ($p < 0.005$). In a murine experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) model of MS, lentivirus-mediated overexpression of miRNA-326 increased disease severity, whereas overexpression of an miRNA-326 inhibitor decreased disease severity compared with that seen using control vector. Next steps include developing strategies to manipulate miRNA-326 and identifying other targets that affect its activity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1527 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use in autoimmune disease therapy; available for licensing from the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences Office of Technology Transfer</p>	<p>Du, C. <i>et al. Nat. Immunol.</i>; published online Oct. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/ni.1798 Contact: Gang Pei, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: gpei@sibs.ac.cn</p>