This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Oncomir-1; smoothened (SMO); sonic hedgehog homolog (SHH)	<p>A study in mice suggests that a cluster of microRNAs—collectively termed Oncomir-1—could be targeted to treat medulloblastoma, a common pediatric brain cancer. In a mouse model of medulloblastoma and in human tumors, Oncomir-1 transcripts were expressed at higher levels than those seen in wild-type or healthy controls. In mice with an activated Shh signaling pathway, injecting murine cells overexpressing human Oncomir-1 led to medulloblastoma-like tumors compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include establishing the causal relationship between the SHH pathway and Oncomir-1. Santaris Pharma A/S is seeking to identify and target specific Oncomir-1 miRNAs that promote medulloblastomas.</p> <p>Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IPI -926, an antagonist of the SHH pathway regulator SMO, is in Phase I trials for advanced solid tumors and has shown efficacy in a mouse model of medulloblastoma. At least four other companies are developing SHH pathway inhibitors for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.218 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Uziel, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0809579106</p> <p>Contact: Martine F. Roussel, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: martine.roussel@stjude.org</p>