This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Lin-28 homolog (LIN28); Lin-28 homolog B (LIN28B)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that targeting LIN28 and LIN28B could help treat cancer. Cell lines with LIN28 overexpression had depletion of let-7 microRNA family members and decreased oncogenic transformation compared with control cell lines. In mice, injection of LIN28-expressing cells caused tumor growth and accelerated disease progression compared with injection of control cells. In a screen of human primary tumors and cancer cell lines, LIN28 or LIN28B were aberrantly expressed in about 15% of cancers, and overexpression was often associated with advanced disease. Next steps include screening for a LIN28 inhibitor.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Viswanathan, S. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online May 28, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.392 Contact: George Q. Daley, Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: george.daley@childrens.harvard.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.934 Published online June 11, 2009				