This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	MicroRNA-26a (miRNA-26a); phosphatase and tensin homolog deleted on chromosome ten (PTEN; MMAC1; TEP1); protein kinase B (PKB; Akt)	<p>Studies in primary tumor cells and in mice suggest that targeting miRNA-26a may help treat glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). In primary human GBM tumors, miRNA-26a was substantially overexpressed. <i>In vitro</i>, miRNA-26a downregulated PTEN, which resulted in enhanced glioma formation. In a glioma mouse model, animals overexpressing miRNA-26a had lower symptom-free survival than controls. Next steps include ongoing work <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> to characterize other miRNAs that may play a role in glioma pathogenesis.</p> <p>Ark Therapeutics Group plc's Cerepro sitimagene ceradenovec (EG009), an adenovirus vector encoding herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (HSV-tk) followed by ganciclovir therapy, is in registration to treat operable malignant glioma.</p> <p>NeoPharm Inc.'s cintredekin besudotox (IL13-PE38), a fusion protein targeting the IL-13 receptor, is in Phase III testing to treat GBM.</p> <p>Antisense Pharma GmbH's trabedersen (AP 12009), an antisense oligonucleotide targeting transforming growth factor-β2 (TGFB2; TGFβ2) mRNA, is in Phase III testing to treat refractory anaplastic astrocytoma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.968 Published online June 18, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Huse, J. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online June 1, 2009; doi:10.1101/gad.1777409</p> <p>Contact: Eric C. Holland, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: hollande@mskcc.org</p>