This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	MicroRNA-21 (miR-21); miR-181b-1	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting miR-21 and miR-181b-1 could help treat colorectal cancer. In a xenograft mouse model of human colon cancer, intraperitoneal injection of antisense RNAs targeting both miR-21 and miR-181b-1 reduced tumor volume compared with injection of antisense RNAs targeting either miR-21 or miR-181b-1. Next steps could include testing inhibitors of miR-21 and miR-181b-1 in additional mouse models of cancer.</p> <p>Regulus Therapeutics Inc. has an antisense oligonucleotide targeting miR-21 in preclinical development to treat heart failure.</p> <p>SciBX 3(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1064 Published online Sept. 9, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Iliopoulos, D. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i>; published online Aug. 27, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2010.07.023</p> <p>Contact: Kevin Struhl, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: kevin@hms.harvard.edu</p>