This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	MicroRNA-34a (miR-34a)	<p>Studies in patient tissue and in mice suggest that boosting miR-34a levels could help treat prostate cancer. In tumor tissue from prostate cancer patients, prostate cancer stem cells had lower miR-34a levels than other prostate cancer cells from the same tumor. In mouse models of prostate cancer, lipid-based delivery of miR-34a decreased tumor growth and lung metastases and increased overall survival compared with delivery of a control oligonucleotide. Next steps include investigating the therapeutic potential of other miRNAs with decreased expression in prostate cancer stem cells.</p> <p>SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.161 Published online Feb. 10, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Liu, C. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 16, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2284 Contact: Dean G. Tang, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Science Park, Smithville, Texas e-mail: dtang@mdanderson.org</p>