This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	MicroRNA-143 (miR-143); miR-145	Studies in mice and in zebrafish suggest that increasing miR-143 and miR-145 levels could help treat <i>Ras</i> -driven cancers. In mice and zebrafish with <i>K-Ras</i> mutant pancreatic cancers, miR-143 and miR-145 levels were lower than those in controls expressing wild-type <i>K-Ras</i> . In mice with human pancreatic cancer cells, vector expression of miR-143 and miR-145 prevented tumor formation compared with expression of a control vector. Next steps include investigating the mechanism of the effects of miR-143 and miR-145.	Patent application filed covering use of miR-143 and miR-145 for diagnostic and therapeutic applications; available for licensing from The Johns Hopkins University Office of Technology Transfer	Kent, O.A. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i> ; published online Dec. 15, 2010; doi:10.1101/gad.1950610 Contact: Joshua T. Mendell, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: jmendell@jhmi.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 4(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.42 Published online Jan. 13, 2011				