This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Gastrointestinal cancer	MicroRNA-196a (miR-196a); HOX transcript antisense RNA (HOTAIR)	<p>Patient sample and cell culture studies suggest miR-196a or HOTAIR could be prognostic markers or therapeutic targets for gastrointestinal cancer. Patients with high levels of miR-196a or HOTAIR in gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) had significantly shorter survival times than patients with low levels. In GIST cells, small interfering RNA against HOTAIR decreased cell viability and invasion compared with control siRNA. Next steps include measuring levels of miR-196a in the blood of patients with GIST and confirming the relationship between patient prognosis and expression of HOTAIR and miR-196a in a prospective clinical trial.</p> <p>SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.175 Published online Feb. 16, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Niinuma, T. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-1803 Contact: Hiromu Suzuki, Sapporo Medical University School of Medicine, Hokkaido, Japan e-mail: hsuzuki@sapmed.ac.jp</p>