This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	MicroRNA-33a (miR-33a); phosphodiesterase-8A (PDE-8A); UV radiation resistance associated (UVRAG)	Studies in patient samples and mice suggest antagonizing miR-33a could help treat brain cancer. In patient glioblastoma multiforme samples, high expression of <i>miR-33a</i> and low expression of <i>PDE-8A</i> and <i>UVRAG</i> , which are negative regulators of tumor-promoting pathways, correlated with poor survival. In mice bearing human glioma and/or glioma-initiating cells, a miR-33a-targeting locked nucleic acid (LNA) led to decreased tumor growth and increased PDE-8A and UVRAG levels compared with a scrambled control LNA. Next steps include developing miR-33a inhibitors that cross the blood brain barrier.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Wang, H. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Sept. 9, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI75284 Contact: Xiao-Fan Wang, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: xiao.fan.wang@duke.edu
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