This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	miR-BART9	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest blocking Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) miR-BART9 could help treat EBV-associated cancers. miR-BART9 expression was higher in EBV-associated nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) samples and in EBV ⁺ NPC cell lines than in healthy control samples or EBV ⁻ NPC cell lines. In EBV ⁺ NPC cells, an anti-miR-BART9 oligomer decreased migration and invasiveness compared with a scrambled oligomer control. In mice, EBV ⁻ NPC cells engineered to overexpress <i>miR-BART9</i> showed increased metastasis compared with EBV ⁻ NPC cells that overexpressed a control gene. Next steps could include testing miR-BART9 inhibition in additional animal models of EBV-associated cancers.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Hsu, C.-Y. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i> ; published online Feb. 27, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003974 Contact: Hua-Chien Chen, Chang Gung University, Taoyuan, Taiwan e-mail: hcchen@mail.cgu.edu.tw Contact: Shu-Jen Chen, same affiliation as above e-mail: sjchen@mail.cgu.edu.tw
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