

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Obesity	miR-17-92 cluster (including miR-17-5p, miR-17-3p, miR-18, miR-19b, miR-20); retinoblastoma 2 (Rb2/p130)	A study in cell culture suggests targeting the miR-17-92 cluster as part of a strategy to treat obesity. MicroRNA profiling of 3T3L1 preadipocyte cells revealed that the miR-17-92 cluster, which promotes cell proliferation in various cancers, is upregulated at the early stage of adipocyte differentiation. The cluster promoted differentiation by targeting and negatively regulating Rb2/p130, a known tumor suppressor. Next steps include studying the effects of miR-17-92 expression on fat cell phenotypes <i>in vivo</i> .	Research not patented; unavailable for licensing	Wang, Q. <i>et al. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Feb 18, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0800178105 Contact: Xinmin Li, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: xinminli@mednet.ucla.edu