

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC)	miR-29c	A study in tissue culture suggests that modulating expression of microRNA miR-29c could help treat NPC, a highly invasive cancer. Expression profiling of laser-captured microdissected NPC patient tissues identified eight miRNAs that were differentially expressed. miR-29c expression was significantly lower in cancerous tissue than in healthy tissue ( $p < 0.002$ ). In HeLa and HepoG2 cells transfected with a miR-29c precursor, several genes encoding extracellular matrix proteins were downregulated in the presence of the miRNA. Such proteins are often associated with invasiveness and metastatic potential. Further research might examine whether miR-29c decreases metastases in NPC and other cancers.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Sengupta, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 24, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0801130105 <b>Contact:</b> Paul Ahlquist, Institute for Molecular Virology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. e-mail: <a href="mailto:ahlquist@wisc.edu">ahlquist@wisc.edu</a>