

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	MicroRNA-29a (miRNA-29a)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that targeting miRNA-29a could help treat HIV infection. In human cell lines, an miRNA-29a inhibitor increased HIV infection, whereas an miRNA-29a mimic decreased viral infectivity. Additional <i>in vitro</i> studies showed that miRNA-29a directly targeted the HIV 3' untranslated region, enhancing interaction between viral mRNA and the host RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC), thus suppressing viral replication. Ongoing studies are investigating miRNA-29a mimics that could suppress HIV replication.</p> <p>SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1050 Published online July 9, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Nathans, R. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i>; published online June 25, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2009.06.003 Contact: Tariq M. Rana, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: trana@burnham.org</p>