This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	c-Met proto-oncogene (HGFR; MET); microRNA-206 (miRNA-206)	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that increasing miRNA-206 levels could help treat rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS). In two mouse models of human RMS, expression of miRNA-206 suppressed tumor growth compared with that in controls not expressing the miRNA. In RMS cells, increasing miRNA-206 levels led to reduced expression of MET, a protein implicated in disease pathogenesis. Next steps include evaluating systemic or adenoviral-mediated delivery of miRNA-206 in mouse RMS models. XL184, a spectrum selective kinase inhibitor of VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/FLK-1; VEGFR2), Ret proto-oncogene (RET) and MET from Exelixis Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase III testing to treat thyroid cancer.</p> <p>At least 11 other companies have compounds targeting the MET tyrosine kinase in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1139 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of muscle-specific miRNAs as therapeutic tools for RMS and other sarcomas; available for licensing</p> <p>Contact: Carola Ponzetto, University of Torino, Torino, Italy e-mail: carola.ponzetto@unito.it</p>	<p>Taulli, R. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI38075</p> <p>Contact: Carola Ponzetto, University of Torino, Torino, Italy e-mail: carola.ponzetto@unito.it</p>