This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia; mixed-lineage leukemia (MLL)	MicroRNA-196b (miRNA-196b)	A study in cell culture suggests that inhibiting miRNA-196b may be useful for treating MLL. In bone marrow cells, expression of MLL fusion proteins increased the expression of miRNA-196b compared with that seen in cells expressing wild-type MLL. Bone marrow cells expressing the MLL fusion protein also had higher proliferative capacity and lower terminal differentiation—two hallmarks of MLL—than cells not expressing the fusion protein. An miRNA-196b antagomir decreased the proliferative capacity of the bone marrow cells compared with that seen using control antagomir. Next steps include studying the effects of miRNA-196b knockdown in mouse models of MLL. *SciBX* 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.313 Published online Feb. 26, 2009	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Popovic, R. *et al. Blood*; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-04-154310 **Contact:** Nancy J. Zeleznik-Le, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Ill. e-mail: nzelezn@lumc.edu