

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	MicroRNA-221 (miR-221)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting miR-221 could help treat liver cancer. An analysis of samples from hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients identified 12 miRNAs linked to liver disease progression. In liver cancer cells, miR-221 was the most upregulated of the miRNAs. Mice with liver cancer that received hepatic progenitor cells expressing miR-221 had less tumor-free survival than mice receiving control hepatic progenitors. Next steps could include testing the effects of miR-221 inhibition in animal models of liver cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Pineau, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 14, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907904107 Contact: Anne Dejean, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France e-mail: anne.dejean@pasteur.fr Contact: Carlo M. Croce, The Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio e-mail: carlo.croce@osumc.edu
		SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.46 Published online Jan. 14, 2010		