This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	MicroRNA-137 (miR-137); miR-181c; serine palmitoyltransferase long chain base subunit 1 (SPTLC1; LBC1); β -amyloid ($A\beta$)	Patient sample and mouse studies suggest miR-137 or miR-181c could help treat AD. Brain tissue from sporadic AD patients had lower levels of SPTLC1-targeting miR-127 and miR-181c and higher levels of ceramide and SPTLC1 than tissue from healthy controls. In astrocytes from a mouse model of AD, overexpression of miR-137 or miR-181c decreased Sptlc1 and $A\beta$ levels compared with overexpression of scrambled miRNA. Next steps include determining the role of the miRNAs in AD and evaluating the molecules as potential AD markers in human sera.	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	Geekiyana, H. & Chan, C. <i>J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Oct. 12, 2011; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3883-11.2011 Contact: Christina Chan, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. e-mail: krischan@egr.msu.edu
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