

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Head and neck cancer	ADAM17; microRNA-145 (miR-145); SRY (sex determining region Y)-box 9 (SOX9); IL-6	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest increasing miR-145 expression could be useful for treating head and neck squamous cell carcinomas. In mice grafted with head and neck cancer-derived tumor-initiating cells, overexpression of miR-145 inhibited tumor growth and increased survival compared with a control vector. In head and neck cancer cell lines and mouse models, miR-145 blocked tumor initiation by inhibiting SOX9, ADAM17 and IL-6 signaling. Next steps include evaluating the effects of disrupting miR-145-regulated targets.</p> <p>SciBX 6(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.360 Published online April 18, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; not yet available for licensing	<p>Yu, C.-C. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online April 2, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-3840 Contact: Shih-Hwa Chiou, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: shchiou@vghtpe.gov.tw</p>