

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	MicroRNA-218 (miR-218)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest increasing miR-218 expression could help treat mesenchymal glioblastoma. In samples from patients with the highly necrotic mesenchymal subtype of glioblastoma, levels of miR-218 were lower and both activity and levels of receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) normally targeted by miR-218 were greater than those in less necrotic subtypes. In mice intracranially implanted with glioblastoma cell lines, constitutive overexpression of miR-218 in the tumor cells increased sensitivity to chemotherapy compared with normal miR-218 expression and improved survival. Next steps include developing a method for delivery of the miRNA across the blood brain barrier.</p> <p>SciBX 7(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.111 Published online Jan. 30, 2014</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Matthew, L.K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 24, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1314341111 Contact: M. Celeste Simon, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: celeste2@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>