This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	MicroRNA-21 (miR-21)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting miR-21 might not be effective for treating cardiac hypertrophy and fibrosis. In miR-21-deficient mice and wild-type mice, four different cardiac stresses each led to increased cardiac hypertrophy or fibrosis. In two mouse models of cardiac stress, locked nucleic acid (LNA)-modified antisense oligonucleotide inhibition of miR-21 led to lower levels of miR-21 in the heart but similar levels of cardiac hypertrophy compared with scrambled oligonucleotide controls. Based on these results, miRagen Therapeutics Inc. has discontinued their preclinical program evaluating miR-21 as a target in cardiovascular disease. Regulus Therapeutics Inc. has antagomir-21, an antisense oligonucleotide targeting miR-21, in preclinical development for cardiac fibrosis.</p> <p>SciBX 3(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1325 Published online Nov. 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status not applicable	<p>Patrick, D.M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 18, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI43604</p> <p>Contact: Eric N. Olson, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: eric.olson@utsouthwestern.edu</p> <p>Contact: Eva van Rooij, miRagen Therapeutics Inc., Boulder, Colo. e-mail: evanrooij@miragenrx.com</p>