This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Dyslipidemia	MicroRNA-33 (<i>miR</i> -33); ATP-binding cassette sub-family A member 1 (ABCA1)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that antagonizing <i>miR</i>-33 could be useful for treating dyslipidemia. In murine and human liver and macrophages, high <i>miR</i>-33 levels correlated with activation of cholesterol biosynthesis pathways. Knockdown of <i>miR</i>-33 in the livers and macrophages increased levels of ABCA1, a regulator of cellular cholesterol and phospholipid levels, compared with mock treatment. In mouse models of dyslipidemia, <i>miR</i>-33 knockdown increased plasma levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol compared with normal <i>miR</i>-33 expression. Santaris Pharma A/S has antisense molecules that target transcripts involved in lipid metabolism in preclinical development to treat dyslipidemia.</p> <p>SciBX 3(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.643 Published online May 27, 2010</p>	<p>Patent pending for findings in the first study; available for licensing</p> <p>Patent pending for findings in the second study; available for licensing</p>	<p>Rayner, K.J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online May 13, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1189862 Contact: Kathryn J. Moore, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: kathryn.moore@nyumc.org Contact: Carlos Fernández-Hernando, same affiliation as above e-mail: carlos.fernandez-hernando@nyumc.org</p> <p>Najafi-Shoushtari, S.H. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online May 13, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1189123 Contact: Anders M. Näär, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: naar@helix.mgh.harvard.edu</p>