This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	MicroRNA-204 (miR-204)	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest that re-establishing miR-204 expression could help treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). In PAH patients and rodent models of the disease, miR-204 levels in the lung were lower than those in healthy controls. In the rat, delivery of synthetic miR-204 to the lung decreased pulmonary arterial pressure and right ventricular thickness compared with delivery of nonspecific RNA control. Next steps could include preclinical toxicology studies of the RNA therapeutics.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Courboulain, A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online Feb. 14, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20101812 Contact: Sébastien Bonnet, University Laval, Hôtel-Dieu, Quebec, Canada e-mail: sebastien.bonnet@crhdq.ulaval.ca
SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.284 Published online March 10, 2011				