This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal damage	MicroRNA-21 (miR-21)	<p>Studies in humans and mice suggest inhibiting miR-21 could help prevent or treat fibrosis caused by renal damage. miR-21 was upregulated in patients with acute kidney injury or chronic allograft nephropathy compared with normal controls. In two mouse models of renal damage, kidney fibrosis was greater in wild-type mice than <i>mir-21</i> knockout mice. In both models, an miR-21 antagomir decreased kidney fibrosis when administered before or after the occurrence of injury-induced fibrosis compared with a control antagomir. Ongoing work by Regulus Therapeutics Inc. includes optimizing and testing the miR-21 antagomir in additional models of renal fibrosis.</p> <p>Regulus' antagomir-21, an antisense oligonucleotide targeting miR-21, is in preclinical development to treat cardiac fibrosis.</p> <p>SciBX 5(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.211 Published online Feb. 23, 2012</p>	Patented by Regulus; antifibrotic applications of anti-miR-21 antagomirs licensed to Sanofi	<p>Chau, B.N. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 15, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003205 Contact: Jeremy S. Duffield, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: jeremysd@u.washington.edu Contact: B. Nelson Chau, Regulus Therapeutics Inc., San Diego, Calif. e-mail: nchau@regulusrx.com</p>