This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Apelin (APLN); microRNA-424 (miR-424); miR-503	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest miR-424 and miR-503 could help treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). In human pulmonary artery endothelial cells, decreased expression of miR-424 and miR-503 was associated with increased proliferation of pulmonary artery endothelial and smooth muscle cells, which contributes to PAH. In two rat models of PAH, lentiviral-mediated lung delivery of miR-424 and the rat homolog of miR-503 decreased pulmonary hypertension compared with a control vector. Next steps include developing a nonviral method for microRNA delivery to the lungs. SciBX 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.55 Published online Jan. 24, 2013	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Kim, J. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Dec. 23, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.3040 Contact: Hyung Chun, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: hyung.chun@yale.edu