This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	MicroRNA-21 (miR-21)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest antagonizing the miR-21 passenger strand could help treat cardiac hypertrophy. Passenger strand miRNAs result from the processing of precursor miRNAs and are generally believed to be inactive. In cardiac fibroblasts and cardiomyocyte cocultures, increasing miR-21 passenger strand levels resulted in larger cardiomyocytes than increasing miR-21 itself. In a mouse model of cardiac hypertrophy, miR-21 passenger strand levels were greater than those in healthy control mice. Next steps include developing strategies to target the miR-21 passenger strand and evaluating them in mice and large-animal models of pathological cardiac remodeling.	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	Bang, C. <i>et al. Neuron</i> ; published online April 17, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI70577 Contact: Thomas Thum, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany e-mail: thum.thomas@mh-hannover.de
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