This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV	MicroRNA-122 (miRNA-122)	<p>Studies in chimpanzees suggest that antagonists of miRNA-122 could help treat HCV infection. In chimpanzee models of chronic HCV infection, SPC3649, a locked nucleic acid (LNA)-modified oligonucleotide antagonist of miRNA-122, reduced levels of HCV RNA and miRNA-122 in the liver compared with vehicle. The compound was safe and did not elicit viral resistance. SPC3649 is in ongoing Phase I testing to treat HCV infection.</p> <p>Regulus Therapeutics Inc. has an oligonucleotide targeting miRNA-122 in preclinical testing to treat HCV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1763 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Patented by Santaris Pharma A/S; available for licensing	<p>Lanford, R. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Dec. 3, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1178178</p> <p>Contact: Henrik Ørum, Santaris Pharma A/S, Horsholm, Denmark e-mail: hoe@santaris.com</p>