

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Pulmonary disease</b>				
Pulmonary fibrosis	MicroRNA-21 (miR-21)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest that inhibiting miR-21 could help treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). In samples from patients with IPF and in mice with bleomycin-induced fibrosis, miR-21 levels were higher than those in healthy controls. In mice, an miR-21 antisense probe decreased bleomycin-induced pulmonary fibrosis compared with a control probe. Next steps include validating the results in additional models of lung fibrosis and exploring the effects of miR-21 inhibition in fibrosis models in other organs.</p> <p>Regulus Therapeutics Inc. has an antisense oligonucleotide targeting miR-21 in preclinical development to treat heart failure.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.929</b> Published online Aug. 5, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; not available for licensing	<p>Liu, G. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online July 19, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20100035</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Gang Liu, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: <a href="mailto:gliu@uab.edu">gliu@uab.edu</a></p>