

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Metabolic disease</b>				
Hypercholesterolemia	Low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that duplex RNA could activate LDLR expression to help treat hypercholesterolemia. In cultured human liver cells, small RNA duplexes complementary to the LDLR promoter produced increases in cell surface expression of LDLR that were comparable to those produced by the generic cholesterol drug lovastatin. In the same cells, a combination of RNA duplexes and lovastatin increased LDLR expression compared with either agent alone. Next steps include testing duplex RNA-based gene activation with other targets.	Patent application filed; licensed to Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Matsui, M. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Dec. 22, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2010.10.009 <b>Contact:</b> David R. Corey, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: <a href="mailto:david.corey@utsouthwestern.edu">david.corey@utsouthwestern.edu</a>
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