

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Transplantation</b>				
Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD)	MicroRNA-155 (miR-155)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting miR-155 could help treat acute GvHD. In mice receiving an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant, a locked nucleic acid (LNA) anti-miR-155 decreased acute GvHD severity and increased survival compared with a control oligonucleotide. Next steps include conducting pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies to find the optimal dose of the miRNA as well as conducting animal toxicity studies.</p> <p>Santaris Pharma A/S' miravirsen, an LNA-modified phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotide targeting miR-122, is in Phase II testing to treat HCV. The company has at least 11 other LNA-based oligonucleotides in Phase I testing or earlier to treat hypercholesterolemia and various cancers.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.347</b>  <b>Published online March 29, 2012</b></p>	LNA technology patented by Santaris; unavailable for licensing	<p>Ranganathan, P. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online March 9, 2012; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-10-387522</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Ramiro Garzon, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio            e-mail: <a href="mailto:ramiro.garzon@osumc.edu">ramiro.garzon@osumc.edu</a></p>