

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Hepatic disease</b>				
Liver disease	MicroRNA-21 (miR-21)	<p>Studies in mice and in human samples suggest antagonizing miR-21 could help treat liver fibrosis. Activation of hepatic stellate cells, which transdifferentiate into collagen-producing myofibroblasts, leads to hepatic fibrosis. In human tissue samples from patients with liver fibrosis and in mouse models of liver fibrosis, miR-21 expression was higher in myofibroblasts than in other cells. In the mouse models, an antagomir targeting miR-21 decreased fibrogenic collagen deposition compared with a control antagomir. Next steps include testing miR-21-targeted antagomirs in additional models of fibrosis.</p> <p>Regulus Therapeutics Inc. and partner Sanofi have antagomirs targeting miR-21 in preclinical testing to treat liver cancer and renal damage.</p> <p><b>SciBX 7(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.21</b> Published online Jan. 9, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhang, Z. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 6, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.517953 <b>Contact:</b> Junfeng Zhang, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China e-mail: <a href="mailto:jfzhang@nju.edu.cn">jfzhang@nju.edu.cn</a> <b>Contact:</b> Lei Dong, same affiliation as above e-mail: <a href="mailto:leidong@nju.edu.cn">leidong@nju.edu.cn</a></p>