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**Title:** Identification of therapeutic targets and antisense oligonucleotide mediated exon skipping based therapies in arthritis

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- 1) Autoantibodies play a role in development of arthritis but they are not sufficient to develop the full-blown disease (This thesis)
- 2) Not all exons are easy to skip by using antisense oligonucleotides (AONs) (This thesis)
- 3) In-vivo delivery of AONs to the target organ/tissue/cell type can be the limiting factor that determines their therapeutic efficacy (This thesis)
- 4) The balance between activating and inhibitory Fc receptors is important and regulates the susceptibility and severity to RA (This thesis).
- 5) Because RA is a multifactorial and heterogeneous disease, an accurate definition of the different sub-forms is required for the development of effective therapies.
- 6) The utility of conditional KO mouse models in the *in vivo* analysis of myeloid cell function is severely hampered by the lack of transgenic mouse lines expressing Cre recombinase exclusively in a particular myeloid subset.
- 7) Modulation of splicing by antisense oligonucleotides has a lot of potential to develop novel therapies for many diseases in the near future, but also as biological research tool.
- 8) Not all the chemical modifications used in antisense oligonucleotides are suitable for in-vivo applications due to their toxicity or other possible side effects.
- 9) "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." MARIE CURIE, *Primary source uncertain, mentioned by Glenn T. Seaborg, 'Need We Fear Our Nuclear Future?' Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (Jan 1968), 24, No. 1*
- 10) "Be occupied, then, with what you really value and let the thief take something else." MEVLANA JALALUDDIN RUMI, *Mathnawi II: 1505-1507 Version by Camille and Kabir Helminski "Rumi: Daylight" (1994)*
- 11) "If scientific analysis were conclusively to demonstrate certain claims in Buddhism to be false, then we must accept the findings of science and abandon those claims." *Dalai Lama XIV, The Universe in a Single Atom: The Convergence of Science and Spirituality (Jan 2005)*