CLAIMS

1. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA comprising:

(a) a first BCL11A segment, a loop segment; and

(b) a second BCL11A segment arranged in tandem in a 5' to 3' direction,

in which the loop segment is between and directly linked to the first and second BCL11A segments,

in which the first BCL11A segment starts with a -GCGC- at the 5' end and the second BCL11A segment ends with a -GCGC- at the 3' end, and

in which the first BCL11A segment is complementary to the second BCL11A segment so that the first and second BCL11A segments base pair to form a hairpin loop with the loop segment forming the loop portion of the hairpin loop thus formed.

2. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the first and second BCL11A segments are about 18 to 25 nucleotides long.

3. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the first BCL11A segment contains a sequence derived from a BCL11A mRNA sequence.

4. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the first BCL11A segment comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65.

5. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the first BCL11A segment comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 61.

6. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the loop segment is derived from a microRNA.

7. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the loop segment is derived from a microRNA selected from the group consisting of: miR-142, miR-155, miR-181 and miR-223.

8. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the loop segment is derived from a microRNA selected from miR-223.

9. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the loop segment comprises the polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 68.

10. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the microRNA comprises a polynucleotide sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42.

11. A synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to Claim 1, in which the microRNA comprises a polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39.

12. A composition comprising a synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to any of Claims 1 to 11.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a synthetic BCL11A microRNA according to any of Claims 1 to 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.