

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HCV; HIV/AIDS	CD274 (PD-L1); interleukin-10 receptor- α (IL-10R α); programmed cell death 1 (PDCD1; PD-1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that simultaneously blocking the PD-1 ligand PD-L1 as well as IL-10Rα could be useful for treating chronic viral infections such as HCV and HIV. In a murine lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus model of chronic viral infection, mice co-injected with antibodies against the cytotoxic T lymphocyte regulators PD-L1 and IL-10Rα had higher levels of T lymphocyte activity and up to 22-fold lower viral titers than single antibody-treated mice or mock-treated controls. Next steps include testing the technique in primate models of HCV and HIV. Medarex Inc. and Ono Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd. are jointly developing MDX-1106 (ONO-4538), a humanized PD-1 antibody that is in Phase I trials to treat cancer.</p> <p>Schering-Plough Corp. has an IL-10 antibody in preclinical development for undisclosed indications.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1105 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Brooks, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811139106</p> <p>Contact: Michael B.A. Oldstone, The Scripps Research Institute. San Diego, Calif. e-mail: mbo@scripps.edu</p> <p>Contact: David G. Brooks, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: dgbrooks@em.ucla.edu</p>