This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Programmed cell death 1 (PDCD1; PD-1; CD279)	<p>Studies of tumor samples suggest that antagonizing PD-1 could help treat metastatic melanoma. In tumor-infiltrating CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells from metastatic melanoma samples, PD-1 expression was significantly higher than in normal tissue T cell infiltrates or peripheral blood T lymphocytes. PD-1-expressing tumor-infiltrating T cells produced fewer cytokines and had impaired T cell effector function compared with PD-1⁻ T cells from the same patient. Next steps could include clinical testing of an anti-PD-1 antibody.</p> <p>Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Medarex Inc. have ONO-4538, an anti-PD-1 antibody, in Phase I testing to treat several cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.872 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Ahmadzadeh, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online May 7, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-12-195792</p> <p>Contact: Steven A. Rosenberg, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: sar@nih.gov</p>