This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	CD40; FK506 binding protein 1A 12 kDa (FKBP1A); myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88 (MYD88)	<p>A study in mice suggests that a fusion protein called DC-CAR could help boost the efficacy of cancer vaccines. DC-CAR is a fusion protein composed of MYD88, the cytoplasmic region of CD40 and two ligand-binding FKBP1A domains. In mouse models of melanoma and lymphoma, a dendritic cell-based vaccine plus DC-CAR decreased tumor progression and increased survival compared with vaccine plus saline control ($p < 0.001$). Next steps include running IND-enabling studies with clinical-grade versions of the compounds.</p> <p>Bellicum Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s DC-CAR and AP1903 combination is in preclinical development for cancer. Bellicum has nonexclusively licensed AP1903, a homodimerizing compound that activates genetically engineered receptors on cell therapies, from Ariad Pharmaceuticals Inc.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.335 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Patent pending; unavailable for licensing	<p>Narayanan, P. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online March 7, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI44327</p> <p>Contact: David M. Spencer, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: dspencer@bcm.tmc.edu</p>