This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	CTLA-4 (CD152); inducible T cell co-stimulator (ICOS)	<p>Mouse studies suggest combining anti-CTLA-4 antibodies plus vaccines that increase ICOS could help treat various cancers. In a mouse model of melanoma, inhibition of Ctl-4 increased expression of Icos on intratumoral T cells compared with no inhibition. In mice, an anti-Ctla-4 mAb plus a tumor cell vaccine made from irradiated melanoma cells expressing an Icos ligand resulted in an antitumor response that prevented melanoma tumor establishment after secondary challenge and caused a fourfold increase in rejection of intradermal melanoma tumors compared with anti-Ctla-4 mAb alone. The combined strategy also caused rejection of prostate tumors in mice. Next steps could include identifying other therapeutic methods to increase ICOS signaling.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. markets the anti-CTLA-4 mAb Yervoy ipilimumab to treat melanoma.</p> <p>At least three other companies have CTLA-4-targeted agents in Phase II or earlier testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 7(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.483 Published online May 1, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fan, X. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online March 31, 2014; doi:10.1084/jem.20130590 Contact: James P. Allison, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: jallison@mdanderson.org Contact: Padmanee Sharma, same affiliation as above e-mail: padsharma@mdanderson.org</p>