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); hepatitis A virus cellular receptor 2 (HAVCR2; TIM3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest combining antibodies against PD-1 and TIM3 could increase patient response to melanoma vaccines. In peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) taken from patients with metastatic melanoma vaccinated with tumor-associated cancer/testis antigen 1B (CTAG1B; NY-ESO-1) peptide, antigen-specific T cell expression of PD-1 and TIM3 was upregulated in about 73% and 18% of cases. In the PBMCs, the NY-ESO-1 peptide plus both anti-PD-1 and anti-TIM3 antibodies showed an additive effect in expanding tumor antigen-specific T cells. Next steps could include testing the antibody combination with cancer vaccines in patients.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. have the PD-1 antibody nivolumab in Phase III trials to treat melanoma.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. has the PD-1 antibody lambrolizumab in Phase III testing for the indication.</p> <p>At least four other companies have antibodies against PD-1 in Phase II or earlier testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.85 Published online Jan. 23, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fourcade, J. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Dec. 16, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-2908</p> <p>Contact: Hassane M. Zarour, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: zarourhm@upmc.edu</p>