

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Melanoma	Interferon induced with helicase C domain 1 (IFIH1; MDA5); phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate-induced protein 1 (PMAIP1; NOXA)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that double-stranded RNA mimics could be used to treat melanoma. In human and murine melanoma cell lines, a dsRNA mimic plus a cationic carrier bound MDA5 and induced autophagy and cell death. Microarray analysis of the treated melanoma cells showed upregulation of the dsRNA sensor MDA5 and the proapoptotic factor NOXA. In three different mouse models of melanoma, the complex reduced tumor size and increased progression-free survival compared with no treatment. Ongoing studies are investigating other dsRNA mimics that could induce autophagy and apoptosis to treat cancer.</p> <p>Ipilimumab (MDX-010; BMS-734016), an anti-cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated protein 4 (CTLA4; CD152) mAb from Medarex Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase III testing to treat melanoma. Genta Inc.'s Genasense oblimersen, an antisense agent targeting B-cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2) mRNA, is in Phase III testing to treat advanced melanoma. Allovectin-7, a gene encoding HLA-B7 mismatched transplantation antigen complexed with lipid from Vical Inc. and AnGes MG Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat recurrent metastatic melanoma.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1208</b> Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Patented by the Spanish National Cancer Research Center (CNIO); available for licensing	Tormo, D. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online Aug. 3, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.07.004 <b>Contact:</b> Maria S. Soengas, Spanish National Cancer Research Center (CNIO), Madrid, Spain e-mail: <a href="mailto:msoengas@cnio.es">msoengas@cnio.es</a>