

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM)	Thymidine kinase (TK1); FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT3); high-mobility group box 1 (HMGB1; HMGB-1); toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that combining a tumor-killing approach with immunotherapy could be an effective strategy to treat GBM and other brain tumors. Adenoviral delivery of FLT3 and TK1 to glioma-bearing mice promoted a TLR2-dependent immune response and tumor regression. TK1-induced cell death led to the release of TLR2 ligand HMGB1, which triggered dendritic cell activation. Next steps include advancing the combined, adenoviral-based FLT3 and TK1 therapy into clinical trials for resectable, recurrent glioma.</p> <p>Eisai Co. Ltd. and Schering-Plough Corp. each market products to treat GBM.</p> <p>Northwest Biotherapeutics Inc. has a vaccine to treat GBM in Phase II testing.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc, Bradmer Pharmaceuticals Inc., Eli Lilly and Co., Merck KGaA, NeoPharm Inc. and Oncoscience AG all have therapies in Phase III trials to treat GBM.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.137</b>  <b>Published online Jan. 29, 2009</b></p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Curtin, J. <i>et al. PLoS Med.</i>; published online Jan. 12, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1000010</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Maria Castro, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:castromg@cshs.org">castromg@cshs.org</a></p>