

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Telomerase	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a photoactivated telomerase inhibitor could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, a 6-mer oligonucleotide conjugated to a photosensitive molecule inhibited telomerase activity upon irradiation. In a human cancer cell line, the conjugate plus irradiation led to less cell proliferation and greater apoptosis than the conjugate without irradiation. Next steps include testing the conjugate in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Kael Co. Ltd.'s VaxOnco Inc. subsidiary is developing GV1001, a vaccine targeting human telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) that is in Phase III testing to treat pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Geron Corp.'s lipid-based telomerase inhibitor imetelstat (GRN163L) is in Phase I/II testing to treat refractory, advanced solid tumors.</p> <p>Geron and Merck & Co. Inc.'s V934 and V935, which are non-dendritic cell (DC)-based vaccines targeting telomerase, are in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.44 Published online Jan. 14, 2010</p>	Patented by the contact authors; available for licensing	<p>Xu, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Dec. 16, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja907417r</p> <p>Contact: Makoto Komiyama, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: komiyama@mkomi.rcast.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Yan Xu, same affiliations as above e-mail: xuyan@mkomi.rcast.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p>