

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu); PD-1 receptor (PDCD1; PD-1; CD279); tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 9 (TNFRSF9; 4-1BB; CD137)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that anti-PD-1 or anti-CD137 mAbs could increase the efficacy of anti-HER2 mAb therapies in breast cancer. In a mouse model of breast cancer, treatment with an anti-PD-1 mAb or anti-CD137 mAb, compared with a control Ig, increased the antitumor effect of an anti-HER2 mAb. Next steps include dose escalation safety studies of the combinations in nonhuman primates or patients with HER2-positive breast cancers.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit markets Herceptin trastuzumab, an anti-HER2 antibody, to treat breast and gastric cancers.</p> <p>At least four companies have PD-1-targeting compounds in Phase I trials or earlier for cancer. BMS-663513, an agonistic mAb against CD137 from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 4(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.449 Published online April 21, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Stagg, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 11, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1016569108</p> <p>Contact: Mark J. Smyth, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: Mark.Smyth@petermac.org</p>