

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Hematological malignancies; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL); multiple myeloma (MM); leukemia	Interferon- α (IFN α); major histocompatibility complex class II DR (HLA-DR)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that an antibody-IFN- α conjugate could help treat NHL, MM and leukemias. The conjugate consisted of IFN- α tethered to a humanized mAb against HLA-DR, which is expressed on many hematological malignancies. In multiple NHL, MM and leukemia cell lines, the conjugate was cytotoxic at low nanomolar to subnanomolar IC ₅₀ values. In mouse models of NHL and MM, the conjugate increased survival compared with unconjugated IFN- α plus an anti-HLA-DR mAb or pegylated IFN- α alone. Future studies could include testing the conjugate in animal models of leukemia.	Patented; licensing status unavailable	Rossi, E.A. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online June 16, 2011; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-03-343145 Contact: Edmund A. Rossi, Immunomedics Inc., Morris Plains, N.J. e-mail: erossi@immunomedics.com
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