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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Depletion of tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 9 (TNFRSF9; 4-1BB; CD137)$^+$/CD4$^+$ T cells to improve adoptive cell therapy treatment of cancer	Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest depleting CD137$^+$/CD4$^+$ T cells could help increase the efficacy of adoptive cell therapy. In mice immunized with a whole-cell cancer vaccine, levels of CD137$^+$/CD4$^+$ T_{reg} cells were higher than those in unimmunized mice. In a mouse model of lymphoma, transplantation of CD137$^-$/CD4$^+$ T cells protected mice from lymphoma cell challenge compared with transplantation of a mixed population of CD137$^+$/CD4$^+$ and CD137$^-$/CD4$^+$ T cells. Next steps include testing antibody-mediated depletion of CD137$^+$ T cells in transplantation experiments. BMS-663513, an agonistic mAb against CD137 from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase I/II testing to treat cancer. *SciBX* 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.139 Published online Feb. 2, 2012	Unpatented; available for licensing	Goldstein, M.J. *et al. Cancer Res.*; published online Jan. 9, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-3375 **Contact:** Ronald Levy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: levy@stanford.edu