

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Globohexaosylceramide (globo-H); stage-specific embryonic antigen-3 (SSEA-3); SSEA-4	<p>Mouse studies suggest chemically modified carbohydrate conjugates could be useful as antigens for the development of cancer vaccines. Chemical synthesis identified a series of modified globo-H antigens that could be coupled to diphtheria toxoid CRM 197 to induce an IgG response against tumor-associated carbohydrate antigens globo-H, SSEA-3 and SSEA-4. In mice, vaccination with lead carbohydrate conjugates induced anti-globo-H responses with IgG/IgM ratios >75. In a breast cancer cell line, antisera from mice immunized with lead carbohydrate conjugates induced greater complement-dependent cytotoxicity than complement alone. Next steps could include testing vaccines that use the conjugates in mouse tumor models.</p> <p>SciBX 7(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1403 Published online Dec. 18, 2014</p>	Patent status unavailable; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Lee, H.-Y. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Nov. 5, 2014; doi:10.1021/ja508040d</p> <p>Contact: Chi-Huey Wong, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: chwong@gate.sinica.edu.tw</p> <p>Contact: Chung-Yi Wu, same affiliation as above e-mail: cyiwu@gate.sinica.edu.tw</p>