This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	IL-23; CD40	Mouse studies suggest combination therapy with IL-23 and CD40 mAbs could be more effective at treating cancer than monotherapy. In a mouse model of chemically induced fibrosarcoma, mAbs targeting the IL-23 p19 subunit (IL-23p19) and CD40 delayed tumor onset and decreased tumor incidence compared with either agent alone or control antibody. In mouse models of melanoma- or prostate cancer–derived lung metastasis, the mAb combination decreased tumor incidence. In a mouse model of spontaneous mammary carcinoma metastasis following primary tumor resection, the mAb combination increased survival. Next steps could include optimizing antibody ratios in preclinical models of cancer. Antibodies used in the study were obtained from Amgen Inc., which participated in the study. Amgen and partner AstraZeneca plc have the IL-23-targeted mAb AMG 139 in Phase II testing to treat inflammatory diseases. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Johnson & Johnson market ustekinumab, a human mAb inhibiting IL-12 and IL-23, to treat psoriasis. At least 10 other companies have IL-23-targeting antibodies in Phase III or earlier testing to treat autoimmune diseases or cancer. At least eight companies have CD40-targeting antibodies in Phase II or earlier testing to treat autoimmune diseases and cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Von Scheidt, B. *et al. Cancer Res.*; published online Feb. 20, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-1646 **Contact:** Michele W.L. Teng, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia e-mail: michele.teng@qimr.edu.au

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