

This week in techniques

| Approach | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drug platforms | | | |
| Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-specific invariant NK T (iNKT) cell therapy | CAR-specific iNKT cell therapies could be designed to target various cancers without causing graft-versus-host disease (GvHD). iNKT cells were designed to express a GD2-targeting CAR that included T cell co-stimulatory domains CD28 and tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 9 (TNFRSF9; 4-1BB; CD137). In a humanized mouse model of metastatic neuroblastoma, injection of GD2-targeting, CAR-specific iNKT cells delayed metastases and prolonged survival without causing GvHD. In this model, GD2-targeting, CAR-specific T cells also showed antitumor activity but caused GvHD. Next steps include evaluating GD2-targeting iNKT cells in a Phase I trial in patients with neuroblastoma. | Patented; available for licensing from Baylor Licensing Group | Heczey, A. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online July 21, 2014; doi:10.1182/blood-2013-11-541235 Contact: Leonid Metelitsa, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: lsmeteli@txch.org |
| | SciBX 7(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.996 Published online Aug. 28, 2014 | | |