Human Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting Glypican-2 in Neuroblastoma

Summary (1024-character limit)
Researchers at the National Cancer Institute’s Laboratory of Molecular Biology (NCI LMB) have developed and isolated several single domain monoclonal human antibodies against GPC2. NCI seeks parties interested in licensing or co-developing GPC2 antibodies and/or conjugates.

NIH Reference Number
E-211-2016

Product Type
• Therapeutics

Keywords
• Glypican-2, GPC2, Antibody, Immunotoxin, Recombinant Immunotoxin, RIT, Chimeric Antigen Receptor, CAR, Antibody-drug Conjugate, ADC, bispecific antibody, neuroblastoma

Collaboration Opportunity
This invention is available for licensing and co-development.

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Description of Technology
Neuroblastoma is a rare pediatric cancer that affects one in every hundred thousand children under the age of fifteen in the United States. Current standards of care are chemotherapy and surgery, followed by stem-cell treatments, radiation and anti-ganglioside antibody therapy, which yield an average three-year survival rate of 10-45%. This demonstrates a need for more effective therapies.

Glypican-2 (GPC2) is a cell surface protein that has been shown to be preferentially expressed on numerous pediatric cancers, including neuroblastoma. Due to this preferential expression, GPC2 represents a potential candidate for targeted therapy.

Researchers at the National Cancer Institute’s Laboratory of Molecular Biology (NCI LMB) have developed and isolated several single domain monoclonal human antibodies against GPC2. This technology covers the naked GPC2 antibodies as well as their use as targeting domains in recombinant
immunotoxins (RITs) and chimeric antigen receptors (CARs). RITs (using clones LH1, LH4, or LH7) and CARs (using LH7) have shown specific killing activity against GPC2-expressing cells, suggesting that these candidates may be further developed as therapeutics.

The technology has been validated with in-vitro studies (human anti-GPC2 RITs and CARs can bind to, and kill, GPC2-positive tumor cells) and the researchers are currently developing mouse models to further develop GPC2-targeted therapies.

Potential Commercial Applications

- Therapeutic applications include unconjugated antibodies and use as targeting moieties for immunoconjugates such as CARs, ADCs, immunotoxins, and bispecific antibodies
- Diagnostic agent for detecting and monitoring target-expressing malignancies

Competitive Advantages

- First to market potential – No current clinical trials with GPC2-targeted therapies
- Human antibody with high specificity and binding to targets results in less non-specific cell killing, therefore fewer potential side-effects for the patient
- Small size of single domain antibodies enhances stability, solubility, and target recognition

Inventor(s)

Mitchell Ho et al. (NCI)

Development Stage

• Pre-clinical (in vivo)

Publications

Li N, et al. Therapeutically targeting glypican-2 via single-domain antibody-based chimeric antigen receptors and immunotoxins in neuroblastoma. [PMID 28939923]

Patent Status

• PCT: PCT Application Number PCT/US2017/043112, Filed 20 Jul 2017

Therapeutic Area

• Cancer/Neoplasm