**This week in therapeutics**

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| Cancer     | Globohexaosylceramide (globo-H); stage-specific embryonic antigen-3 (SSEA-3); SSEA-4 | 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. | Patent status unavailable; licensing status undisclosed | Lee, H.-Y. *et al*. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*; published online Nov. 5, 2014; doi:10.1021/ja508040d
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