

## Novartis goes up against Glaxo in Tim-3



Jacob Plieth

Rather like Tigit, Tim-3 is an immune system checkpoint mechanism that in the past year has made a bid to re-emerge from obscurity. The big pharma group most heavily invested in it seems to be Novartis, which recently has made much of its contender, sabatolimab. In today's fourth-quarter results presentation the Swiss group said that a phase II myelodysplastic syndromes trial should read out in the second half of this year, while pivotal data in the pre-cancerous disease will come in 2023. [At last year's Ash meeting](#) a phase I chemo combo study yielded a 23% overall remission rate among 35 MDS subjects. Novartis's nearest rival is Glaxosmithkline's cobolimab, but like the rest of the competition this is targeting solid tumours, in three phase II trials enrolling 689 subjects. It appears to be some way behind sabatolimab, with Glaxo stating at the recent JP Morgan conference that it expected proof-of-concept data for cobo in NSCLC this year. Previous excitement over Tim-3 included [Curis playing up its small-molecule contender back in 2016](#), but this never entered the clinic and is likely on the back burner.

### Selected oncology projects targeting Tim-3

Project	Company	Detail
<i>Phase III</i>		
Sabatolimab	Novartis	Pivotal Stimulus-MDS2 trial ( <a href="#">NCT04266301</a> ) in MDS
<i>Phase II</i>		
Cobolimab (TSR-022)	Glaxosmithkline (ex Tesaro)/ Anaptysbio	4 Ph2 dostarlimab combo studies, incl Costar-Lung ( <a href="#">NCT04655976</a> )
<i>Phase I</i>		
BGB-A425	Beigene	<a href="#">NCT03744468</a> , anti-PD-1 combo, ends Jun 2021
Sym023	Les Laboratoires Servier	<a href="#">NCT03311412</a> , anti-PD-1 combo, ends Nov 2021
BMS-986299	Bristol Myers Squibb	<a href="#">NCT03444753</a> , +/- Opdivo/Yervoy, ends Nov 2021
BMS-986258	Bristol Myers Squibb/Five Prime	<a href="#">NCT03446040</a> , +/- Opdivo, ends Mar 2025
INCAGN2390	Incyte/Agenus	<a href="#">NCT04370704</a> , anti-PD-1/Lag-3 combo, ends Jul 2023
SHR-1702	Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine	<a href="#">NCT03871855</a> , +/- anti-PD-1, study status unknown
TQB2618	Sino Biopharmaceutical	<a href="#">NCT04623892</a> , monotherapy, trial yet to begin
<i>Preclinical</i>		
CA-327	Curis	Small-mol PD-L1/Tim-3 inhibitor, likely deprioritised
HLX52	Shanghai Henlius Biotech	-

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Evaluate HQ  
44-(0)20-7377-0800

Evaluate Americas  
[+1-617-573-9450](tel:+16175739450)

Evaluate APAC  
[+81-\(0\)80-1164-4754](tel:+8108011644754)

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