

Glaxo follows Jounce with an Icos setback



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Glaxosmithkline’s efforts to make progress in oncology have taken another knock with the discontinuation of two phase 3 trials of its Icos agonist feladilimab. The studies in question are in head and neck cancer in combination with Merck & Co’s Keytruda: [Induce-3](#) is in PD-L1-positive subjects, while [Induce-4](#), in all-comers, additionally gives chemo. Two remaining phase 2 tests continue, but must now also be seen as highly speculative; [one combines feladilimab with Astrazeneca’s tremelimumab](#) and [the other includes Bristol Myers Squibb’s Yervoy](#). The CTLA-4 combo strategy was seriously undermined with last year’s failure of the Emerge study of Jounce’s competing Icos MAb vopratelimab plus Yervoy ([Jounce trounced after Icos stumble, November 3, 2020](#)). If the latest setbacks signal the end of feladilimab – the industry’s most advanced Icos MAb – this will add to [Glaxo’s struggles in oncology](#). The group’s anti-BCMA ADC Blenrep did make it across the line in multiple myeloma, but toxicity looks set to limit its use to late-line settings; the anti-PD-(L)1 MAb dostarlimab is still not approved in the US, after a 2020 Pdufa date came and went; and another once-promising late-stage asset, [bintrafusp alfa, has failed two important studies](#).

What next for Icos?

Project	Company	Mechanism	Status
<i>Oncology</i>			
Feladilimab (GSK3359609)	Glaxosmithkline	Icos agonist MAb	Ph3 Induce-3 & Induce-4 (Keytruda combos) discontinued; ph2 anti-CTLA-4 combos ongoing
Vopratelimab (JTX-2011)	Jounce Therapeutics	Icos agonist MAb	Ph2 Emerge (Yervoy combo) failed; ph2 Select (JTX-4014 combo) ongoing
BMS-986226	Bristol-Myers Squibb	Icos agonist MAb	Phase 1/2 (Opdivo/Yervoy combo) ends Oct 2022
XmAb23104	Xencor	Icos co-stimulator x anti-PD-1 bispecific MAb	Ph1 Duet-3 (Yervoy combo) ends Sep 2024
<i>Autoimmune disease</i>			
ALPN-101	Alpine Immune Sciences/Abbvie	Icos/CD28 antagonist	Ph1 GvHD study terminated; ph2 in lupus starts Jul 2021
MEDI-570	Astrazeneca	Anti-Icos MAb	Discontinued in ph1 (lupus)

Source: company information & [clinicaltrials.gov](#).

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