

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding
 - a) a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), wherein the CAR comprises an antigen-binding domain specific for a cell surface antigen; and
 - b) an armoring molecule, wherein the armoring molecule counters immunosuppression of a cell in a tumor microenvironment when expressed on a surface of the cell.
2. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, wherein the antigen-binding domain comprises an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.
3. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 2, wherein the antigen-binding domain is a Fab or a single chain variable fragment (scFv).
4. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 3, wherein the antigen-binding domain is an scFv comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 or SEQ ID NO: 34.
5. The isolated nucleic acid sequence according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a transmembrane domain, a costimulatory domain, and a signal domain.
6. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 5, wherein the transmembrane domain comprises a CD28 transmembrane domain.
7. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 5, wherein the costimulatory domain comprises one or more of CD28, 4-1BB, CD3zeta, OX-40, ICOS, CD27, GITR, and MyD88/CD40 costimulatory domains.
8. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 5, wherein the costimulatory domain comprises one or more of CD28, 4-1BB, and CD3zeta costimulatory domains.

9. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 5, wherein the signal domain comprises a sequence encoding a CSFR2 signal peptide.
10. The isolated nucleic acid sequence according to any of the preceding claims further comprising further comprising a hinge/spacer domain.
11. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 10, wherein the hinge/spacer domain is an IgG4P hinge/spacer.
12. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, wherein the armoring molecule is TGF- β receptor type 2 dominant-negative (TGF β RIIDN).
13. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 1, encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 46.
14. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the cell surface antigen comprises one or more of CD10, CD16, CD19, CD20, CD22, CD123, CD30, CD34, CD47, CD56, CD80, CD86, CD117, CD133, CD138, CD171, CD37, CD38, CD5, CD7, CD79, 5T4, AFP, AXL, BCMA, B7H3, CDH3, CDH6, CLDN6, CLDN18, CLL-1, CMV, CS1, DLL3, DR5, FBP, GD2, GFRA1, GPA33, GPC3, IL-1-RAP, IL17RA, ITGB7, EBV, ERBB1/EGFR, ERBB2/Her-2, ERBB3, ERBB4, cMet, EGFR vIII, FAP, FOLR1, CEA, CEACAM6, EphA2, HSV-1, HSV-2, HTLV, HPV16-E6, HPV16-E7, IL13Ra2, Igk chain, LGR5, LMP1, LeY, LRP8, MG7, MR1, NRCAM, PMEL, NKG2D ligand, PRAME, PRLR, PVR, ROR1, ROR2, SSX2, STEAP1, STEAP2, TACI, TIM3, TRBC1, VEGFR-2, EPCAM1, VCAM1, VIPR2, MAGE-A1, MAGE-A3, MAGE-A4, mesothelin (MSLN), MUC1, MUC16, NY-ESO-1, WT1, PDL1, CAIX, CD70, PSMA, and PSCA.
15. A vector, comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), wherein the CAR comprises an antigen-binding domain specific for a cell surface antigen and an armoring molecule, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 46.

16. A cell comprising the vector of claim 15 or the isolated nucleic acid of any of claims 1-14.
17. A cell, comprising:
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR), and
a TGF β RIIDN armoring molecule expressed on a surface of the cell.
18. The cell of claim 17, wherein the CAR comprises an antigen-binding domain, a transmembrane domain, a costimulatory domain, and a signal domain.
19. The cell of claim 18, wherein the antigen-binding domain is a Fab or a single chain variable fragment (scFv).
20. A cell, comprising:
an anti-GPC3 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprising an antigen binding domain, wherein the antigen binding domain comprises an antibody, Fab, or an scFv comprising a heavy chain variable region (VH) and a light chain variable region (VL),
wherein the VH comprises a CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37, a CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38, and a CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39, and
wherein the VL comprises a CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 40 or SEQ ID NO: 43, a CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 41 or SEQ ID NO: 44, and a CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 42 or SEQ ID NO: 45; and
a TGF β RIIDN armoring molecule.
21. The cell of claim 20, wherein the VH comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 27 or SEQ ID NO: 29.

22. The cell of claim 20, wherein the VL comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 or SEQ ID NO: 30.
23. The cell of any of claims 20-22, wherein the anti-GPC3 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) and TGF β RIIDN armoring molecules comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47.
24. The cell of any of claims 16-23, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a T cell, a Natural Killer (NK) cell, a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL), and a regulatory T cell.
25. A method of treating cancer, comprising:
administering to a subject in need thereof a cell, wherein the cell comprises
a) a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) specific for a cell surface antigen, and
b) an armoring molecule, wherein the armoring molecule counters immunosuppression of the cell in a tumor microenvironment of the cancer.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein the cell surface antigen is one or more of CD10, CD16, CD19, CD20, CD22, CD123, CD30, CD34, CD47, CD56, CD80, CD86, CD117, CD133, CD138, CD171, CD37, CD38, CD5, CD7, CD79, 5T4, AFP, AXL, BCMA, B7H3, CDH3, CDH6, CLDN6, CLDN18, CLL-1, CMV, CS1, DLL3, DR5, FBP, GD2, GFRA1, GPA33, GPC3, IL-1-RAP, IL17RA, ITGB7, EBV, ERBB1/EGFR, ERBB2/Her-2, ERBB3, ERBB4, cMet, EGFR vIII, FAP, FOLR1, CEA, CEACAM6, EphA2, HSV-1, HSV-2, HTLV, HPV16-E6, HPV16-E7, IL13Ra2, Ig κ chain, LGR5, LMP1, LeY, LRP8, MG7, MR1, NRCAM, PMEL, NKG2D ligand, PRAME, PRLR, PVR, ROR1, ROR2, SSX2, STEAP1, STEAP2, TACI, TIM3, TRBC1, VEGFR-2, EPCAM1, VCAM1, VIPR2, MAGE-A1, MAGE-A3, MAGE-A4, mesothelin (MSLN), MUC1, MUC16, NY-ESO-1, WT1, PDL1, CAIX, CD70, PSMA, and PSCA.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the armoring molecule is a TGF β RIIDN armoring molecule.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising inhibiting tumor growth, inducing tumor regression, and/or prolonging survival of the subject.
29. The method of claim 31, wherein the cell is an autologous cell.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein the autologous cell is selected from the group consisting of a T cell, a Natural Killer (NK) cell, a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL), and a regulatory T cell.
31. The method of any of claims 25-30, wherein the cancer is a solid tumor.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein the cancer is hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, ovarian cancer, and/or squamous cell lung carcinoma.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein the cancer is hepatocellular carcinoma.
34. The method of any of claims 26-33 further comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an anticancer antibody and/or a chemotherapeutic component.