This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that an anti-EGFR antibody in combination with a small molecule EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor could help treat drug-resistant lung cancer. In transgenic mice with Tarceva erlotinib-resistant tumors, the anti-EGFR antibody Erbitux cetuximab plus the EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor BIBW 2992 reduced tumor size compared with that in controls. Next steps could include refining combination strategies to treat drug-resistant cancers.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Merck KGaA market Erbitux to treat colorectal cancer and squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN).</p> <p>OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Roche market Tarceva to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>BIBW 2992 from Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH is in Phase III testing to treat NSCLC.</p> <p>SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1401 Published online Sept. 24, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Regales, L. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 14, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI38746</p> <p>Contact: William Pao, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: william.pao@vanderbilt.edu</p>