This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	Anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK); epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest combined ALK and EGFR inhibition could decrease drug resistance in NSCLC. In cells from NSCLC patients resistant to crizotinib, ALK sequencing identified a secondary mutation that increased cell growth and tyrosine kinase resistance. In resistant cells expressing the ALK mutation, dual ALK and EGFR inhibition decreased cell proliferation better than either treatment alone. Next steps could include testing the combination in animal models.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. has crizotinib, a dual c-Met receptor tyrosine kinase and ALK inhibitor that is in registration to treat NSCLC.</p> <p>At least four other companies have ALK inhibitors in clinical and preclinical development to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.879 Published online Aug. 11, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Sasaki, T. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online July 26, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-1340</p> <p>Contact: Pasi A. Janne, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: pasi_janne@dfci.harvard.edu</p>