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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	*In vitro* and mouse studies identified EGFR receptor inhibitors that could help treat NSCLC. A screen of kinase inhibitors targeting EGFR T790M, a mutation responsible for 50% of NSCLC cases that are resistant to EGFR inhibitors, identified pyrimidine compounds with 30–100 fold greater potency against the mutant than traditional quinazoline-based EGFR inhibitors. In a mouse model of lung cancer driven by EGFR T790M, the pyrimidine compounds significantly reversed tumor nodule formation compared with vehicle ($p<0.05$). Next steps could include additional studies to determine whether the class of compounds is effective in other NSCLC subtypes. At least 11 companies have EGFR inhibitors in clinical testing or on the market to treat various cancers.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zhou, W. *et al. Nature*; published online Dec. 24, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08622 **Contact:** Pasi A. Jänne, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: pjanne@partners.org **Contact:** Nathanael S. Gray, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: Nathanael_Gray@dfci.harvard.edu

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