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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Embryonic stem cell (ESC)-driven mouse models of lung cancer	Chimeric mice consisting of healthy cells and cells engineered for inducible expression of cancer genes could help guide the development of cancer therapeutics. In chimeric mice with genetically manipulated ESCs that expressed cancer mutations in HER2 (ERBB2; neu), K-Ras or epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), tumors developed in normal lung tissue and the incidence of adenocarcinoma was dependent on administration of the inducing agent. Genetic and immunohistochemical studies revealed cancer-related pathways driven by each mutation, suggesting potential therapeutic targets. Next steps could include using the animals to identify therapeutic targets in subsets of lung cancer. At least ten companies have EGFR or HER2 inhibitors in clinical testing to treat non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). *SciBX* 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.98 Published online Jan. 21, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zhou, Y. *et al. Nat. Biotechnol.*; published online Dec. 20, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1595 **Contact:** Joerg Heyer, AVEO Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jheyer@aveopharma.com