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1 **Emerging paradigms and recent progress in targeting ErbB in cancers**

2
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11
12 **KEYWORDS**

13 ErbBs•Oncology•Drug resistance•Therapeutic targeting•interactome•EGF-like
14 domains

15
16 **ABSTRACT**

17 **The Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor family is a class of transmembrane**
18 **proteins, highly regarded as anti-cancer targets due to their pivotal role in**
19 **various malignancies. Standard cancer treatments targeting the ErbB receptors**
20 **include tyrosine kinase inhibitors and monoclonal antibodies. Despite their**
21 **substantial survival benefits, the achievement of curative outcomes is hindered**
22 **by acquired resistance. Recent advancements in anti-ErbB approaches such as**
23 **inhibitory peptides, nanobodies, targeted-protein degradation strategies and bi-**
24 **specific antibodies aim at overcoming these resistances. More recently,**
25 **emerging insights into the cell surface interactome of the ErbB family open new**
26 **avenues for modulating ErbB signaling by targeting specific domains of ErbB**
27 **partners. Here, we review recent progress in ErbB targeting and elucidate**
28 **emerging paradigms that underscore the significance of EGF domain-containing**
29 **proteins as new ErbB targeting pathways.**

31 **ErbB receptors targeting in cancers remain an open area for innovative** 32 **approaches**

33 The ErbB/HER family of receptor tyrosine kinases (RTK) comprises four distinct
34 members: ErbB1/EGFR (HER1), ErbB2 (HER2), ErbB3 (HER3), and ErbB4 (HER4)
35 that selectively bind diverse EGF ligands [1]. Upon ligand binding, ErbB receptors
36 undergo conformational changes that allow homo- or heterodimerization, resulting in
37 the transphosphorylation and activation of the dimerized ErbB receptors. This event
38 initiates key downstream signaling effectors activation leading to cellular proliferation,
39 differentiation and migration [1] with pivotal roles in tumor initiation and progression [2].
40 In numerous cancer types, ErbB receptors are frequently overexpressed or amplified,
41 constituting oncogenic drivers that lead to excessive signaling and uncontrolled cellular
42 growth and migration, well-established hallmarks of cancer [3]. Thus, ErbB receptors
43 are compelling anti-cancer targets which have been subject to intensive drug research.
44

45 The first development and approval of selective ErbB inhibitors have led to exciting
46 clinical improvement of ErbB-driven malignancies, sustained by impressive initial
47 responses. Two strategies are currently the standard care for these cancers:
48 Monoclonal antibodies (mAb), which enhance natural anti-cancer immune system to
49 target ErbB ectodomains or antagonize ligand-receptor interaction; and tyrosine kinase
50 inhibitors (TKIs), that bind to the ATP-binding pockets located within the ErbB catalytic
51 kinase domain to prevent kinase domain phosphorylation [2]. Rapidly, the efficacy of
52 these strategies has been offset by drug-resistant mutations and crosstalk activations,
53 invariably condemning patients [2,4]. Hence, novel anti-ErbB therapies are in high
54 demand to overcome these resistances mechanisms.

55
56 Recent advancements have led promising results in overcoming resistances,
57 supported by multiple targets involvement, nanoscaling and click chemistry [5,6]. Here,
58 we review the anti-ErbB drugs approved in cancer therapy, alongside the mechanisms
59 of resistance which curtail their long-term therapeutic efficacy. We also provide an
60 overview of emerging developments in ErbB-targeted approaches encompassing
61 innovative strategies designed to overcome these resistances. Moreover, we highlight
62 the importance of the ErbB interactome as an under-explored avenue for the discovery
63 of novel anti-ErbB therapeutics for cancer patients.
64

65 **Clinically approved ErbB targeted therapies in cancers**

66 *Anti-ErbB Monoclonal Antibodies*

67 Several antibodies have been approved to efficiently target ErbB1, ErbB2, and more
68 recently ErbB3 [7].

69 Currently, four primary mAbs targeting the ErbB1 receptor have been approved for
70 clinical use: cetuximab, panitumumab, nimotuzumab, and necitumumab (Table 1).
71 They impede downstream signaling [8] and activate immune component by involving
72 natural killer cells and **antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC)** (see
73 Glossary) mechanisms [8,9]. Anti-ErbB1 mAbs are currently approved in non-small cell
74 lung cancer (NSCLC), advanced colorectal cancers (CRC), head and neck cancer
75 (HNSCC) and gastroesophageal cancers (GOC), in combination with radiotherapy or
76 chemotherapy [8,10].

77 Several anti-ErbB2 mAbs are approved to treat breast (BC) and gastric cancers (Table
78 1). Trastuzumab binds to the extracellular domain IV of the ErbB2 receptor, impeding
79 its dimerization with other ErbB members [11]. Pertuzumab, targets the extracellular
80 domain II of ErbB2 to prevent ErbB2 heterodimerization, was developed to treat
81 patients whose cancers had progressed during trastuzumab treatment [12].
82 Pertuzumab–trastuzumab–hyaluronidase-zzxf, a subcutaneous formulation of the
83 trastuzumab – pertuzumab association was granted FDA approval for metastatic
84 ErbB2+ BC [13]. ErbB2 **Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADC)** also emerge as an
85 attractive way to efficiently target ErbB2+ tumors. These ADC involve the association
86 of ErbB2 mAbs with inhibitory molecules (tubulin inhibitors, topoisomerase I inhibitors,
87 anti-mitotic and DNA alkylators – See Table 1) and have shown success to treat
88 cancers [14-17]. Interestingly, trastuzumab-Deruxtecan (T-DXd), have been approved
89 for ErbB2^{low} metastatic BC based on DESTINY-Breast04 trial, showing improved
90 **progression free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS)** of patients compared to
91 chemotherapy. These remarkable results are due to enhanced efficacy and delivery of
92 Deruxtecan compared to other ADC, and its bystander effect targeting intratumor
93 ErbB2 heterogeneity. These results are impactful since they redefine the druggability
94 of ErbB2-positive cancers, based on ErbB2 minimum expression [14-16].

95 Several next generation ADC formats are also developed to target ErbB2. ErbB2
96 immune-stimulating ADCs (ISAC) conjugate TLR7/TLR8 agonist or stimulator of

97 interferon genes (STING) to trastuzumab/pertuzumab and show high antitumor activity
98 along with robust immune activation and cytokine release in mouse xenograft models
99 of ErbB2+ BC [18]. More recently, [click chemistry enables the development of](#) dual-
100 payload ADCs for cancer therapy *in vitro*, by involving anti-ErbB2 mAbs equipped with
101 two different cytotoxic effectors (microtubule inhibitor MMAE + DNA damage induced-
102 PBD SG3457 or microtubule inhibitor MMAF + topoisomerase II inhibitor PNU-15968).
103 Despite exerting dual mechanisms of action, neither agent demonstrate an
104 improvement in *in vitro* potency when compared with their corresponding single-drug
105 ADCs. However, these different approaches offer promising capabilities for tackling
106 drug resistance, tumor heterogeneity and treatment-related adverse effects [18].
107 Hence, anti-ErbB2 mAbs and ADC are currently approved or under clinical
108 investigation in metastatic ErbB2+ BC, GOC or solid tumors, alone or combined with
109 chemotherapy and kinase inhibitors [14,19,20] (Table 1).

110 More recently, mAbs targeting ErbB3 have been developed (Table 1), due to the
111 emerging interest for ErbB3 in therapeutic resistance [7,21]. Patritumab and its
112 Deruxtecan (DXd)-based ADC derivatives have been extensively studied in various
113 clinical and preclinical models of cancers, showing a reduction in cell proliferation,
114 migration, and anchorage-independent growth [21,22]. These mAbs are also currently
115 under advanced clinical investigations in various solid tumors, in combination with
116 chemotherapy, kinase inhibitors or other mAbs [22,23,7].

117
118 The role of ErbB4 in cancers is still controversial, depending on cancer-subtype,
119 cancer treatment and/or ErbB4 (iso)form, thus limiting its potential as a major ErbB
120 target [24,25]. Particularly, studies show that the prognostic impact of ErbB4 does not
121 only depend on its expression status but mainly depends on its subcellular localization,
122 and more precisely, its cleavable intracellular domain (4ICD). Hence, the 4ICD
123 regulates cell proliferation, differentiation, and cell death of epithelial cells [25,26]. P6-
124 1 and Ab1479 mAbs that target the extracellular domain of ErbB4 and prevent NRG
125 ligand binding show growth-inhibiting capacity of ErbB4-positive BC in 3D preclinical
126 *in vitro* models (Table 1). Similarly, C6 mAb, which mimicks NRG1 effects and prevents
127 translocation of 4ICD into the nucleus, mediates pro-apoptotic signaling via
128 mitochondria impairment [26].

129 *ErbB Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors*

130 TKI targeting ErbB have brought significant clinical advantages as anticancer
131 therapies. However, despite primary responses, tumors rapidly develop resistance to
132 these drugs [24, 27].

133 First-generation TKIs targeting ErbB1 (erlotinib, gefitinib, icotinib and lapatinib) or
134 ErbB2 (lapatinib, tucatinib) are TKIs reversibly binding the ATP-binding pocket of ErbB
135 receptors (Table 1). They have demonstrated high efficacy for patients with advanced
136 lung cancer (LC) harboring ErbB mutations, as well as ErbB2-positive advanced CRC
137 and BC. Consequently, PFS increases in all groups of patients treated with these TKIs,
138 despite no statistical difference in OS. Since the initial treatment for these patients was
139 platinum-based combination chemotherapy, these TKIs became second- and then
140 first-line chemotherapeutic agents [27].

141 Second-generation TKIs are irreversible pan-ErbB (ErbB1, ErbB2, and ErbB4)
142 inhibitors developed to overcome resistance mediated by the ErbB1^{T790M} mutation
143 (Table 1) [24]. Despite promising pre-clinical data, the drug concentration could not
144 reach the therapeutic range due to relatively severe adverse events. Afatinib and
145 dacomitinib were approved as first-line treatments for patients with ErbB1-mutated
146 NSCLC and neratinib was approved for the treatment of ErbB2-positive BC. Recent
147 analysis of LUX-Lung 2/3/6 clinical studies indicate that afatinib is particularly effective
148 against uncommon ErbB mutations (ErbB1^{G719X}, ErbB1^{S768I}, and ErbB1^{L861Q}) and less
149 effective on classical ErbB1^{T790M} and ErbB1^{ins20} mutations [28]. Other second-
150 generation TKIs targeting pan-ErbB (pyrotinib), ErbB3 (TX1-85-1), and ErbB4
151 (molecules I and II, compounds I_k and I_la, compounds A and B) are currently under
152 preclinical and clinical evaluation for various advanced and mutated cancers [23, 26,
153 29, 30] (Table 1).

154 A pyrimidine-based third-generation TKI was subsequently developed to target
155 ErbB1^{T790M} mutation as well as common ErbB1 mutations without inhibiting wild-type
156 ErbB (Table 1). Osimertinib was initially approved as a second-line treatment in
157 ErbB1^{T790M}-positive LC [24,31]. Thereafter, it was approved as a first-line treatment for
158 advanced mutated LC [31, 32]. Lazertinib, rociletinib, olmutinib, naquotinib, avitinib,
159 and nazartinib are currently under clinical evaluation in ErbB-mutated LC [24,32].
160 However, despite promising results, osimertinib resistances have also emerged [33].

161 Currently, fourth-generation TKI are under clinical investigations to counteract these
162 resistances [24] (Table 1).

163 The development of ErbB-targeted therapies (mAbs and TKI) has greatly expanded
164 treatment options in cancer therapeutics and spurred new avenues in the extensive
165 and comprehensive research on ErbB-targeting improvement. However, despite
166 considerable therapeutic progress, both primary and acquired resistances to these
167 drugs have emerged, resulting in disease recurrence [2,4,27,33] (Box 1).

168

169

170 **Anti-ErbB Innovative approaches: new perspectives to overcome resistances in** 171 **cancers**

172 *Inhibitory Peptides*

173 Several strategies, based on Protein-Protein Interaction (PPI) interfaces, have been
174 employed to develop inhibitory peptides targeting ErbBs (Box 2).

175 The first approach is to target receptor-ligand interactions [24, 48] (Figure 1 b)). Among
176 EGF-mimicking peptides, GE11 (YHWYGYTPQNVI) has demonstrated significant *in*
177 *vitro* and *in vivo* anti-tumor properties in NSCLC and hepatocarcinoma cell lines.
178 Subsequent research has further underscored its potential anticancer effects,
179 indicating its progression toward clinical utility [52]. Pep11, a peptide designed on the
180 ErbB1-cetuximab interface has also demonstrated significant *in vitro* anti-tumor
181 properties in BC and skin cancer cells [53]. Interestingly, cyclic forms of receptor-ligand
182 inhibitory peptides, such as cycloL1 (cycloKLARLLT) and cp23G, allow better stability
183 and affinity for EGFR while enhancing anti-tumoral function *in vitro* [54,24].

184 The second approach is to disrupt dimerization of ErbBs [54,48] by designing peptides
185 targeting the dimerization arm within domain II of ErbBs, thus preventing ErbB
186 complexes formation. Proteolytically stable peptides mimicking the dimerization arm
187 structure of ErbB1 or ErbB2, such as EDA2 (AhaYNPTTYQPg), Peptide 1
188 (CQTPYYMNTC) or **HSTC79**, show high efficacy to reduce survival in BC and LC [54]
189 (Figure 1 b)). **The use of nanoscaled particles fused to peptides can also improve the**
190 **disruption of ErbB complexes. For example, TMP1 peptide (BP-FFVLK-**
191 **YCDGFYACYMDV), which turns into nanofibers when it binds to Erb2 on cancer cells,**
192 **shows impressive ErbB2/EGFR disruption and leads to BC cell apoptosis *in vitro* and**
193 ***in vivo*. [55]**

194 Peptides with intracellular inhibitory activity have also been developed to target ErbB1
195 (Figure 1 b)). Disruptin, a peptide featuring a motif similar to the intracellular segment
196 of ErbB1, destabilizes ErbB1/ErbB2 dimerization, prevents receptor interaction and
197 promotes receptor degradation [56]. Mimetic peptides (SAH-EJ1 stapled peptide and
198 TE-64562) targeting the inner juxtamembrane domains of ErbB1 have demonstrated
199 the formation of non-functional dimers, inhibiting the kinase activities of ErbBs while
200 inducing cell death in various tumor models, including TKI-resistant LC [57]. Similarly,
201 the study of intracellular regulatory proteins of ErbB family has yielded the
202 development of inhibitory peptides. Mitogen-inducible gene 6 (Mig6) segment 1, a
203 juxtamembrane protein that regulates ErbB kinase activity, was used to develop a pan-
204 ErbB inhibitory peptide to treat resistant acquired mutated forms of LC [58].

205 Peptides can also be engineered to disrupt ErbB complex formation by anchoring to
206 the plasma membrane, creating steric hindrance [59] (Figure 1 b)). This strategy has
207 been employed to target ErbB1 and ErbB2 in diverse cancers, yielding the peptide
208 PET1 and MTP-NeuT [60].

209 Similar screening strategies (computational design and phage display) have been
210 applied to design inhibitory peptides targeting ErbB2 and ErbB3 receptors. These
211 peptides impede receptor dimerization and activation, and ultimately promote receptor
212 degradation, diminishing their oncogenic functions in BC and resistant pancreatic
213 cancer models [61].

214 In addition to their potential as direct inhibitors or drug conjugates, peptides are used
215 as diagnostic tools, including the radiolabeling of ErbB2 peptides such as A9 and
216 AHNP [62,63], or the ErbB1-targeting peptide GE11 [52]. More recently, some of these
217 peptides have found utility in **PhotoDynamic Therapies (PDT)** when employed as
218 light-photosensitizers, specifically targeting ErbB-overexpressing cancers [64] (Figure
219 1 b)).

220 Despite their promising anti-tumor activities, none of these peptides are currently
221 undergoing clinical trial development. However, building on the progress seen with
222 GE11 peptide [52] coupled with the growing appeal of peptide inhibitor strategies in
223 oncology [48], stable cyclic peptides and peptide-based nanocarrier efficiently
224 targeting ErbB-overexpressing cancers should emerge in the coming years.

225
226
227 *Bi-specific antibodies*

228 Bi-specific antibodies (BsAbs) have emerged as a promising advancement in oncology
229 to address drug resistance and enhance the efficacy and safety of mAbs, rendering
230 them attractive for ErbBs therapeutics [65]. BsAbs possess a compelling attribute as
231 they selectively recognize and bind two distinct antigenic epitopes simultaneously,
232 holding potential for targeting compensatory mechanisms. They can be tailored to
233 target tumor-associated antigens while minimizing damages to normal cells, thereby
234 facilitating more precise and effective cancer treatment with reduced adverse effects
235 [65]. This strategy is particularly enticing, facing the difficulty for tumors to develop two
236 drug resistances at once. Consequently, BsAbs targeting ErbB mobilize the three
237 primary mechanistic strategies of BsAb: bridging receptors, bridging tumor and
238 immune cells, and bridging receptors and cytokines (Figure 1 a) (Table 2).

239 Simultaneous inhibition of two tumor-associated proteins can lead to a more robust
240 therapeutic effect by targeting multiple pathways involved in cancer progression and
241 acquired bypass track resistances [66,67] (Box1) (Figure 1 a) [65]. As LC exhibit ErbB
242 amplification and c-Met mediated-bypass track resistance, the BsAb Amivantamab that
243 targets both ErbB1 and c-Met has been used in cancer therapy [67,68]. It demonstrates
244 *in vivo* antitumor activity, with an enhanced ErbB1/c-Met internalization and
245 degradation [69], correlated to durable tumor regression in combination with third-
246 generation TKI in NSCLC patients [70]. Interestingly, Amivantamab is effective against
247 ErbB1 acquired mutations in clinical evaluations [71]. Likewise, ErbB3 is an emerging
248 target in cancer resistance since it leads to compensatory activation when
249 ErbB1/ErbB2 are targeted [7]. The BsAb Zenocutuzumab targets ErbB2 and ErbB3
250 receptors to mitigate this resistance and induce ADCC activity [72]. In the phase I/II
251 "eNRGy" trial, a promising response rate of 35% was obtained in advanced pancreatic
252 cancer [73]. This BsAb demonstrates particular efficacy in patients with *neuregulin-1*
253 gene (NRG1) fusions, a genomic aberration found in less than 1% of solid tumors.
254 *NRG1* fusion serve as potent oncogenic drivers, since NRG1 fusion-positive tumors
255 rely on ligand-dependent activation of ErbB3 signaling cascades through paracrine
256 loops, thereby limiting efficacy of therapies. Consequently, targeting the NRG1-fused
257 ligand represents a rational approach for ErbB-directed interventions. Functionally,
258 Zenocutuzumab employs a 'Dock & Block®' mechanism of action: initially the BsAb
259 binds to the ErbB2 receptor at the cancer cell surface, and it subsequently impedes
260 the interaction between NRG1-fused ligands and ErbB3 by obstructing the ErbB3

261 ectodomain. Consequently, this BsAb emerges as a promising therapeutic avenue to
262 address the unmet clinical needs for patients harboring NRG1 fusions ligand
263 dependency [72].

264
265 BsAbs can also bridge two receptors of the same type but located on different epitopes.
266 For example, Anbenitamab (KN026) and Zanidatamab (ZW25) target two epitopes of
267 ErbB2, combining the binding sites of trastuzumab and pertuzumab. They have
268 demonstrated promising results in the treatment of ErbB2-positive BC, GO, and biliary
269 tract cancers, limiting compensatory track resistances [74,75]. Several BsAbs have
270 also been incorporated into ADC strategies, combining the high specificity of BsAb
271 antibodies with the potent cytotoxicity of small molecules (Table 2). For instance,
272 ZW49, a BsAb derived from ZW25, has exhibited favorable antitumor activity and
273 safety in clinical trials [76]. To date, only Amivantamab (2021) and Zenocutuzumab
274 (2023) have received approval.

275 The second strategy for BsAbs involves the bridging of tumor and immune cells, with
276 particular emphasis on T-cell engaging bispecific antibodies (T-BsAbs or BiTE) [77]
277 (Figure 1 a)). Importantly, **BiTE** antibodies overcome immune escape more effectively
278 compared to traditional checkpoint inhibitors [78]. BiTE targeting ErbB2xCD3 or
279 EGFRxCD27 induces tumor growth delay and increase T-cell mediated cytotoxicity in
280 various ErbB-expressed cancer models [77,79]. These findings underscore the
281 potential of BsAbs to overcome resistance to ErbB-targeted therapies. Targeting
282 specific T-cell subsets with BsAb is a promising approach to enhance the efficacy and
283 selectivity of BiTE therapies. BsAb 7D12-5 GS-6H4, which targets **Vy9Vδ2 T cells** and
284 ErbB1, has demonstrated activation of Vy9Vδ2 T cells and apoptosis induction in CRC
285 xenograft models [80].

286 The last strategy involves co-targeting of tumor antigens and pro-tumoral cytokines
287 (Figure 1 a)). BCA101 consists of an anti-ErbB1 mAb linked to the extracellular domain
288 of human TGFβRII to target soluble TGF-β. BCA101 combines the *in vitro* and *in vivo*
289 effects of ErbB1 targeting, including the inhibition of cell proliferation and the activation
290 of ADCC, with the functional neutralization of TGFβ, in PDX models of HNSCC [81].

291 *Tri-/Tetra-specific antibodies*

292 **Trispecific (TsAbs) and tetraspecific (TvAbs) antibodies** represent an advanced
293 development beyond BsAbs, offering enhanced therapeutic potential. The ErbB2 x
294 VEGFR2 x CD3 TsAb effectively inhibits tumor growth in BC and prostate cancer
295 models resistant to trastuzumab [82]. ErbB2 x CD3 x CD28 TsAb resulted in effective
296 tumor regression in a humanized BC model, even in patients who were not suitable for
297 conventional anti-ErbB2 therapies [83]. GB263T, which recognizes ErbB1 and two
298 different epitopes of Met, blocks their phosphorylation, activates enhanced ADCC
299 function, and inhibits the proliferation of various tumor models harboring ErbB1 or Met
300 mutations, highlighting its potential to counteract resistance to anti-ErbB therapies [84].

301
302 Despite the success of BsAbs in hematological malignancies and promising preclinical
303 results in solid tumors, their therapeutic benefit in clinical trials, especially in the context
304 of resistance to ErbB-targeted therapies, remains to be established. The limitations
305 observed with BsAbs include mathematical models that do not consider the oversight
306 of ADCC, internalization processes or the intricate dynamics of RTK signaling. **The**
307 **suppressive tumor microenvironment and the three-dimensional cellular organization**
308 **(distribution of receptors, local steric hindrance) also hamper complex predictive**
309 **modeling of BsAb efficacy [85, 86].** These **mathematical models** necessitate an
310 integration of BsAbs' flexibility, as well as considerations of epitope density and
311 stoichiometry, as these factors significantly influence BsAbs' **avidity**, thereby
312 impacting their therapeutic benefits. This altered avidity arises from the multiplicity of
313 binding specificities inherent in BsAbs, which are mediated by variations in antigen
314 targeting proportions and the valency of BsAb arms [85,87]. Importantly, the sum of
315 monovalent affinities does not necessarily reflect bispecific binding efficacy, especially
316 in contexts where epitope proportions are imbalanced. Consequently, BsAbs often fail
317 to show clinical improvement compared to mAbs. Thus, meticulous fine-tuning of both
318 affinity and avidity is a prerequisite in the engineering of BsAbs to develop a new class
319 of multivalent antibodies with tailored properties and enhanced functionalities [85].
320 **Orthogonal experimental tests, such as immune system engagement assays (ADCC**
321 **and complement activation), also need to be achieved during the screening process of**
322 **BsAb to confirm their immunological superiority compared to monoclonal therapies**
323 **[86].**

324 Specific anti-ErbB BsAbs, such as Zenocutuzumab and Zanidatamab, have thus
325 rapidly progressed toward late-stage clinical trials (Supplemental Table 1), indicating
326 a promising future for this therapeutic approach. Optimizing the selection of anti-ErbB
327 BsAbs, based on robust predictive models coupled with comparative immunological
328 tests against control mAb, will be a prerequisite to the success of this approach in
329 clinical trials [86].

330

331 *Nanobodies*

332 Despite exhibiting mixed clinical success, mAbs are associated with significant
333 drawbacks, including limited tumor penetration and development of therapeutic
334 resistance. Recent advancements in antibody-based therapeutics have led to the
335 discovery of **nanobodies**, which have demonstrated substantial advantages and
336 translational promise in both preclinical and clinical studies [88]. Their nanoscale
337 dimensions enable efficient tumor penetration, minimize steric hindrance near targeted
338 epitopes, and demonstrate reduced off-target accumulation [89].

339 Several nanobodies targeting ErbB1 [90], ErbB2 [91], and ErbB3 [92], have been
340 developed to target various regions of ErbBs (tyrosine kinase domain, dimerization
341 interface or ectodomains) [90] (Figure 1 c)) or other receptors involved in TKI
342 resistance such as c-Met and overcome therapeutic resistance associated with mAbs.
343 Recently, nanobodies have been designed to target soluble EGF in combination with
344 osimertinib, thereby overcoming resistance in LC [93]. Interestingly, several anti-
345 cancer BsAbs incorporate nanobodies, such as ErbB1xCD16 (7D12-C21),
346 ErbB2xErbB2 (RR2-H-RR4), or EGFRxVγ9Vδ2-T (7D12-5GS-6H4) BsAbs [94].

347

348 In addition to their intrinsic therapeutic potential, nanobodies can enhance the efficacy
349 of other cancer therapies, particularly in the context of the tumor microenvironment.
350 Due to their nanoscale size, nanobodies have been investigated to circumvent the
351 drawbacks encountered in Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR)-T cell management in
352 solid tumors [95]. Recently, nanobody-CARs targeting ErbB1 have been developed,
353 showing T cell activation, tumor regression and cytokine release in a BC model [96].
354 Studies have also explored the integration of nanobodies into the **universal CAR**
355 **(UniCAR) system**, which offers a switchable CAR-T cell technology to rapidly mitigate
356 CAR treatment-related adverse effects. Anti-ErbB nanobody-based UniCAR-T cells
357 have induced degradation of ErbB1-expressing tumors. Based on cetuximab, bivalent

358 version of this UniCAR has been developed, further targeting low ErbB1-expressing
359 tumors *in vivo* [97] (Figure 1 d)).

360 Extensive research has also unveiled the potential of nanobodies as carriers for drugs,
361 toxins, radionuclides or nanoparticles [98,99]. (Figure 1 d)). For instance, fragment
362 derived from the bacterial toxin *Pseudomonas exotoxin A* (PE24X7) have been fused
363 to anti-ErbB2 nanobodies, enhancing cytotoxic effects in various ErbB overexpressing
364 tumor models [100]. Another example shows that ferritin-based nanocage fused to
365 nanobodies allow transport of therapeutic molecule within tumors. Encapsulation of
366 manganese phthalocyanine to ferritin conjugated nanobodies (MnPc@Nb-Ftn)
367 specifically induces cell death of EGFR-positive NSCLC *in vitro* [98].

368 Another promising application of nanobodies is in PDT where they offer a potent
369 solution to overcome mAbs limitations (reduced PDT efficacy and extended patient
370 photosensitivity) [64]. Anti-ErbB2 nanobodies conjugated to photosensitizers have
371 effectively eliminated trastuzumab-resistant BC cells following a short laser treatment
372 [101]. Similarly, anti-ErbB1 nanobody-PS conjugates have demonstrated targeted
373 phototoxicity *in vitro* and *in vivo* in HNSCC and NSCLC [102] (Figure 1 d)).

374 In preclinical applications, nanobodies targeting ErbBs have shown promising anti-
375 cancer effects, harnessing the therapeutic advantages of mAbs, and the targeting
376 potential of nanoscale delivery systems. However, despite these substantial
377 advantages, nanobodies exhibit a less immunogenic profile and are susceptible to
378 rapid renal clearance, which restricts their therapeutic duration and can lead to renal
379 toxicity, particularly with drug conjugates [88].

380

381

382 *PROTACS / LYTACS*

383 Targeted Protein Degradation (TPD) represents an innovative and rapidly advancing
384 **technology** that exploits the protein degradation pathway [103]. Among the TPD
385 strategies, Proteolysis-Targeting Chimeras (PROTACs) has emerged as an enticing
386 approach [101]. PROTACs are heterobifunctional molecules that simultaneously
387 engage the Protein of Interest (POI) and an E3 ubiquitin ligase, connecting them
388 through a linker incorporated within the PROTAC structure. In ErbB-PROTACs, the
389 selection of POI ligands derives from ErbB inhibitors, such as TKIs or their analogs
390 (Table 1) (Figure 1 c)). This strategic choice preserves the specificity of the small
391 molecule used as an ErbB ligand, especially when targeting ErbB mutated forms and

392 independently of the kinase inhibition activity. Consequently, ErbB-PROTACs
393 overcome acquired resistance mechanisms [104-107]. Remarkably, the Dacomitinib-
394 based PROTAC has been the first ErbB-PROTAC to show antitumor effects *in vivo*,
395 demonstrating compelling degradation of EGFR^{del19} mutated forms and promising
396 antitumor activity in LC [107]. Fourth-generation inhibitors-based PROTACs have also
397 been develop to target allosteric pockets on ErbB1. Fourth-generation EAI001
398 allosteric inhibitor as POI ligand demonstrates a selective *in vitro* inhibition of
399 EGFR^{L858R/T790M} mutated NSCLC proliferation. EAI001 in combination with osimertinib
400 shows synergistically effects in Osimertinib-resistant cancer cell lines [108].
401 Click chemistry has shown the possibility of dual-ErbB PROTACs, enabling the
402 simultaneous degradation of ErbB and another oncoprotein. Zheng *et al.* have
403 incorporated gefitinib (ErbB1 TKI) and olaparib (PARP inhibitor) via click chemistry to
404 efficiently degrade ErbB1 and PARP in cancer cells *in vitro* [109].

405 Antibody-based PROTAC (AbTAC) represents another emerging facet of TPD
406 technology, capable of inducing the degradation of extracellular and membrane
407 proteins [110]. Contrarily to POI ligands as in PROTACS, AbTAC strategy relies on
408 BsAbs, with one arm designed to target a cell surface POI and the other arm directed
409 at a transmembrane E3 ligase, such as RNF43 and ZNRF3 [111,112]. Recently, a
410 cetuximab-based AbTAC was developed that induces significant apoptosis and inhibits
411 cell proliferation in multicellular 3D spheroid assays [113].

412 AbTAC derivates, such as Degradable-Antibody based Conjugates (DAC), have also
413 garnered significant attention in oncology due to the combination of ErbB antibody
414 targeting and PROTAC technology (instead of the traditional cytotoxic payload). The
415 mAb moiety recognizes an ErbB receptor, triggering internalization of the DAC–ErbB
416 complex. The linker is degraded under proteolytic or acidic/reducing conditions, thus
417 releasing the conjugated PROTAC to lead to POI degradation. In this way, ErbB2-DAC
418 have been developed, coupling ErbB2 tumor-targeting (trastuzumab, pertuzumab) and
419 PROTAC targeting the bromodomain-containing protein 4 (BRD4) - a crucial
420 epigenetic regulator – or the G1 to S phase transition 1 (GSPT1) protein (ORM-5029).
421 These DAC demonstrate interesting antitumor activity in mouse models of leukemia
422 and BC respectively, with comparable activity with control ADC [18].

423 Similarly, **Lysosome-Targeting Chimeras (LYTAC)** have recently emerged as novel
424 tools to induce the degradation of extracellular and membrane proteins via the
425 endosome-lysosome pathway. LYTAC are BsAb simultaneously engaging the
426 extracellular domain of a cell surface POI and a lysosome-targeting receptor. The
427 formation of a ternary complex drives protein internalization through clathrin-mediated
428 endocytosis, ultimately resulting in the degradation of the POI [114,115] (Figure 1 c)).
429 Second-generation LYTACs featuring a triantennary N-acetylgalactosamine motif
430 fused with cetuximab, have demonstrated comparable degradation of ErbB1 compared
431 to first-generation LYTACs but with a powerful cell-type selectivity [115].

432 Although ErbB degraders have demonstrated impressive efficiency in target
433 degradation and anti-tumor activity, they have not undergone comprehensive
434 investigations regarding their potential off-target effects, toxicity profiles, and
435 progression towards clinical development. Furthermore, the use of other E3 ligase
436 ligands or lysosome-targeting ligands need further explorations. Optimizing TPD
437 strategies necessitates a comprehensive analysis of the pivotal role played by the
438 linker structure within the PROTAC and the development of BsAbs for the LYTAC
439 approach. Undoubtedly, with progress in click chemistry and BsAbs optimization, TPDs
440 hold the potential to enhance the selectivity, efficacy, and low resistance profiles to
441 ErbB inhibitors.

442

443 **Targeting of ErbB membrane partners: Seamy-side or promising approach?**

444 *ErbB interactome and EGF domains*

445 The ErbB receptor family exhibits a complex interactome at the cell surface
446 characterized by a growing number of co-receptors, probably underestimated, which
447 play a pivotal role in promoting tumorigenic properties. For instance, ErbB1 interacts
448 with MUC1 **transmembrane mucin** (TM), EphA2 receptor, and the glycoprotein CD44,
449 thereby increasing oncogenic characteristics and resistances across various cancer
450 types [116-118]. Within these membrane partners, a particular class of proteins
451 garners substantial interest due to their possession of structural domains closely
452 mimicking the natural ligands of ErbB receptors: the EGF-like domains (Box 3).

453

454 Recently, EGF domain-containing proteins (EDCP) have spurred interest due to their
455 involvement in cancer resistance [122]. However, few EDCP have been so far
456 identified to bind and activate ErbB1 or ErbB2 to promote cancer progression.

457 Studies have reported the tumorigenic properties of Laminin-332 γ 2 chain (LAMC2),
458 which encompasses EGF-like domains (Figure 2 a)). LAMC2 directly interacts with
459 ErbB1 or is cleaved to release its EGF-like repeats which bind and activate ErbB1,
460 leading to downstream MAPK activity in LC and HNSCC [123]. More recently, the EGF-
461 repeats protein superfamily (EGFL) has been investigated for its pro-tumoral properties
462 and its role in resistance mechanisms [124,125]. GC and CRC are mediated by ErbB1
463 activation in vitro, via the EGF-like domains of EGF-like proteins 6 (EGFL6) and EGFL.
464 This oncogenic promotion is reverted when EGFL proteins are targeted by antibodies
465 [124,125] (Figure 2 a)). EGF-like domains can also activate ErbB receptors invariably
466 of the ErbB1 mutation status, such as tenascin-C EGF-like domains which bind and
467 signal through both wild-type and mutated ErbB1 [126] (Figure 2 a)).

468 Several EDCP represent alternative activators of the ErbB receptors in cancers [123-
469 127, 129]. These alternative activations underscore the role of specific domains from
470 larger proteins to modulate biological pathways, supporting the overarching hypothesis
471 that EGF-like domains hold potential as therapeutic drug targets [120,128]. (Figure 2
472 c)).

473

474

475 *EGF domain-containing Transmembrane Mucins: MUC4 as ErbB unorthodox ligand*

476 For several years now, TM have emerged as favored partners of ErbB receptors
477 capable of establishing interactions with ErbB2 [129,130], ErbB3 [131], and ErbB1
478 [132]. Moreover, certain TM possess EGF-like domains [129] that can directly activate
479 ErbBs thereby functioning as unconventional ligands and offering alternative ErbB
480 targeting approaches [131].

481 Among TM harboring EGF-like domains, MUC4 has received particular attention, due
482 to its overexpression in many aggressive cancers or cancers lacking efficient therapies
483 [132,133]. Moreover, MUC4 EGF directly interact with ErbB2 via its EGF-like domains,
484 providing oncogenic activity of the MUC4-ErbB2 complex in pancreatic cancer [129]
485 (Figure 2 b)). As such the EGF domains of MUC4 are now considered as therapeutic
486 targets in cancer (Figure 2 c)). Our team has designed the first peptide specifically
487 targeting the EGF domains of MUC4. This peptide is able to disrupt the MUC4-ErbB2

488 complex by selectively targeting the EGF-like domains of MUC4, in order to reduce
489 pancreatic tumor growth *in vitro*. This peptide also rescues the accessibility to ErbB2
490 epitopes for conventional targeted therapies (Trastuzumab) leading to pancreatic
491 cancer cell sensitivity restoration to ErbB2 targeted **therapy (unpublished data)**. These
492 effects of the peptide represent one of the pioneering demonstrations that the strategy
493 using peptide-based targeting of EDCP may open new avenues in ErbB targeting and
494 therapeutic combinations (small inhibitory peptide + targeted therapy) to treat cancers
495 overexpressing EDCP. Restoration of ErbB2 sensitivity to Trastuzumab in the
496 presence of the inhibitory peptide suggests that targeting MUC4 EDCP holds the
497 potential to mitigate mucin-mediated resistance of cancer cells [19, 134] (Figure 2 b)).
498

499 **Concluding remarks and perspectives**

500 Comprehensive analysis of the **key determinants contributing to acquired resistance to**
501 **conventional ErbB therapies (i.e., secondary mutations and bypass track) has**
502 **catalysed the development of novel strategies targeting the ErbB receptors**. These
503 novel approaches encompass the use of smaller, highly specific molecular agents
504 (nanobodies/peptides), adept at circumventing the biophysical constraints inherent to
505 the tumor microenvironment. Furthermore, these approaches leverage a novel
506 generation of antibodies (BsAbs) designed to enhance engagement with the anti-
507 tumoral immune component and attenuate alternative signaling cascades. Recent
508 innovations in this field also exploit protein degradation systems (PROTAC/LYTAC)
509 and the targeting of PPI at the cancer cell surface (inhibitory peptides), thereby
510 curtailing the potential for **acquired** resistance to ErbBs. **These diverse approaches are**
511 **supported by breakthrough technologies such as nanotechnology, click chemistry and**
512 **computational design, which enable improved simultaneous delivery of anticancer**
513 **molecules or complexify the targeting potential of PROTACs, peptides and antibodies**
514 **(dual payload)/dual PROTAC/transformable peptide). [18, 135, 109, 55].**
515

516 EDCP as alternative ligands of ErbBs represent a yet relatively unexplored field in
517 deciphering novel targetable alternative signaling mechanisms within the ErbB
518 interactome in cancers. However, it is important to note that not all EGF-like domains
519 (ELD) within proteins operate as ligands for ErbB receptors, underscoring the diverse
520 functional repertoire of these domains. Indeed, **the “EGF-like domain” denomination**
521 **lacks clear definition in the literature, referring to two subtypes: human epidermal**

522 growth factor-like (hEGF), which are ligands for ErbB receptors, and complement C1-
523 EGF like (cEGF), unrelated to ErbBs and associated with integrin-like signaling
524 [136,119,120]. In addition to this undifferentiated denomination, comprehensive
525 molecular investigations elucidating (h)ELD implication in EDCP interactions are
526 scarce, leading to a limited understanding of ELD precise binding modalities to ErbB
527 receptors. For instance, ELDs of a same protein could exhibit differential affinities for
528 ErbB receptors [137], as hypothesized by previous observations demonstrating
529 preferential affinities between distinct ELDs of MUC4 (EGF1 or EGF2) and specific
530 ErbB family members (ErbB2/ErbB3/ErbB1) [129]. Two EDCP can also exhibit
531 differential affinity for the same ErbB receptor: MUC4 ELDs exhibit a high affinity for
532 EGFR [129, 132], while tenascin-C (an extracellular matrix protein) ELD bind EGFR
533 with low affinity [138]. However, despite molecular idiosyncrasies, ELDs that engage
534 ErbB receptors trigger analogous activation of signaling pathways, involving the
535 MAPK/AKT/mTOR/FAK axis [125,129,138,139]. These observations underscore the
536 necessity for more in-depth molecular investigations to fine-tune the diverse interaction
537 mechanisms and functional specificities of the ELDs.

538
539 Additionally, five TM mucins (MUC3, MUC4, MUC12, MUC13 and MUC17) possess
540 ELDs [131], but most studies of their impact in cancers have been limited to the MUC4
541 ELDs. Only one study has implicated the EGF domains of MUC13 in the direct
542 interaction with ErbB2 and the promotion of pancreatic cancer, resulting in the same
543 mechanisms of activations as observed for MUC4 ELD [129,130]. There is no
544 information regarding MUC12 ELD, while findings on MUC17 and MUC3 ELD lack
545 precise molecular information concerning their direct interaction with ErbB receptors
546 [140]. Considering the phylogenetic evidence regarding the origin of mucin ELD [131],
547 we hypothesize that all mucins containing ELDs could potentially interact and activate
548 ErbB receptors to facilitate cancer progression. Considering targeting approaches of
549 MUC4, EGF-like domains (ELD) appear as new targets for mitigating compensatory
550 ErbB receptor activation (ErbB2/ErB3) and resistance to anti-cancer therapies (mAbs)
551 (outstanding questions).

552 Interestingly, certain TM mucins, such as MUC1, interact with EGFR despite lacking
553 ELDs in their structure. MUC1-EGFR association is mediated by Galectin 3, which
554 favor this interaction by cell surface polarization of MUC1 and EGFR. MUC1 mediates
555 EGFR stabilization to promote its dimerization and prolonged activation [141].

556 Similarly, EDCPs, including TM and LAMC2, stabilize ErbB complexes at the cell
557 surface via ELD interactions, preventing their degradation and sustaining their
558 signaling activity [132,142]. In a context of ErbB resistance, mucin glycosylation may
559 also impede the fixation of therapeutic antibodies [19,130,133]. Emerging literature
560 also highlights the involvement of TM mucins, particularly MUC1, MUC13, and MUC4,
561 in ErbB TKI resistance, showing their impact in upregulation of efflux pumps and
562 activations/interactions with bypass RTKs [143,144]. In this way, global targeting of TM
563 mucin family (dependently and independently of ELD) could be an interesting strategy
564 to reduce progression of tumor harboring ErbB acquired resistances.

565

566 Although all these innovative strategies have yet to achieve widespread clinical
567 implementation due to their relative novelty, promising preclinical investigations
568 pertaining to their anti-tumor efficacy suggest their prospective emergence as impactful
569 therapeutic modalities in forthcoming clinical trials.

570

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579

580 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

581 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

582

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984

985 **GLOSSARY**

986 **Antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC):** Type of immune reaction in
 987 which immune cells bind antibodies fixed on cancer cells and release substances that
 988 kill the targeted-cancer cells.

989 **Antibody-drug conjugates (ADC):** Fusion between an antibody and a cytotoxic
 990 molecule. The antibody leads to a specific cell or target specificity, while the cytotoxic
 991 agent increases cancer therapy efficacy.

992 **Avidity:** Binding strength derived from the affinities of multiple individual interactions.
 993 It can be applied to antibody–antigen binding, clonal selection or effector functions.

994 **BiTE:** Bispecific T-cell Engagers are antibodies which simultaneously engage tumor-
 995 associated antigens and a receptor located on immune cells. This initiates a signaling
 996 cascade within T cells leading to target-dependent tumor cell lysis.

997 **Gene fusion:** Oncogenic gene fusions are hybrid genes that result from structural DNA
 998 rearrangements. These chromosome exchanges between two genes lead to the
 999 production of new specific fused-ligands, which can bind receptors to generate
 1000 dysregulated oncogenic activities.

1001 **HCST79:** Peptide which is part of herstatin antibody’s sequence.

1002 **LYTAC:** The first developed LYTAC molecule relies on the cation-independent
 1003 mannose-6-phosphate receptor (CI-MPR) as the TLR, facilitating the intracellular
 1004 trafficking of lysosomal enzymes. The low pH environment within late endosomes
 1005 leads to the release of lysosomal enzymes from CI-MPR. While the POI is directed for
 1006 lysosomal degradation, CI-MPR undergoes recycling at the cell surface.

1007 **Mimetic peptide:** Peptide whose structure and/or aa sequence resembles the
1008 receptor original ligand without its detrimental functions. It can be utilized as antagonist
1009 of the natural ligand to limit receptor activation.

1010 **Nanobodies:** Also referred as single-domain antibody, nanobodies are the smallest-
1011 known functional antibody fragment (2.5 nm in diameter and 4 nm in height) derived
1012 from a functional antibody termed heavy-chain antibody (HcAb) and discovered in
1013 camelid sera. Nanobodies consist of only a single small variable domain known as
1014 VHH, lacking light-chain polypeptides and the first constant domain (CH1).

1015 **Phage display technology:** Technique which exploits protein-protein interaction,
1016 phage genomic and rules of evolution to rapidly generate huge screening libraries,
1017 bigger than those obtained by conventional drug discovery approaches, and allows
1018 identification of numerous new effective compounds.

1019 **Photodynamic therapy:** Anti-cancer technology which utilizes light-activated
1020 photosensitizer (PS) to eliminate tumor cells. PS is applied to specifically target the
1021 tumor site, based on tumor-associated antigens and well-incorporated molecule in
1022 cancer cells. Then, PS sensitizes/enhances the impact of light (applied at a specific
1023 wavelength) to degrade tumor cells and recruit anti-cancer immune component in the
1024 tumor microenvironment.

1025 **Transmembrane Mucins:** TM mucins are multi-modular O-glycoproteins involved in
1026 several pathophysiological processes. They play fundamental roles in epithelia
1027 homeostasis by protecting underlying epithelia and by modulating cell-cell and cell-
1028 matrix adhesion.

1029 **Trispecific and Tetraspecific antibodies:** Antibodies which possess respectively
1030 three and four distinct antigen-binding sites, providing additional options for target
1031 selection.

1032 **UniCAR-T cells:** UniCARs are CAR-T cells activated by externally-administered
1033 "Targeting Modules", linked to an antibody component recognizing the target antigen,
1034 thereby creating a "safety switch". This approach was developed to limit drawbacks of
1035 CAR-T cells technology, especially in terms of specificity, control of activation and
1036 toxicity.

1037 **Vy9V δ 2 T cells:** Specific T-cell subpopulation which possesses a conserved T-cell
1038 receptor capable of recognizing malignant cells without relying on major
1039 histocompatibility complex.

1040

1041 **TEXT BOXES**

1042 **Box 1 - Resistances to conventional anti-ErbB therapies: A multifaceted issue**

1043 Despite the availability of several ErbB-specific therapeutics, the long-term
1044 effectiveness of these drugs is limited by multiple resistance pathways. **These**
1045 **resistances are primarily driven by both pre-existing on-target mutations (intrinsic**
1046 **resistance) and newly appeared mechanisms of resistance (acquired resistance)**
1047 **[24,27]. Acquired resistance encompass activation of compensatory pathways and**
1048 **secondary mutations appearing after first-line of treatment to limit tumor sensitivity to**
1049 **ErbB inhibitors.** The most prevalent **acquired** resistance mechanism of first generation
1050 TKI involves the emergence of a secondary mutation (T790M) within the ErbB1 kinase
1051 domain [27]. This gatekeeper mutation induces drug resistance by enhancing ATP
1052 affinity. (Figure 1). Second- and third-generation ErbB-specific TKIs, such as
1053 Osimertinib (2018), have been developed to irreversibly bind to the ATP-binding sites
1054 and specifically inhibit the ErbB1^{T790M} mutation [31]. However, recent data point new
1055 acquired resistances to this third-generation TKI, including C797X mutations that
1056 prevent covalent binding of the drug [24,33]. In contrast to TKIs, **secondary mutations**
1057 **of specific binding site of antibody-based therapy are rare, but include the S492R ErbB**
1058 **ectodomain mutation** [8]. Instead, major resistance mechanisms to anti-ErbB
1059 antibodies converge into two **intrinsic** pathways mutations: PIK3K/AKT and
1060 RAS/RAF/MAPK. Primary resistance in CRC to anti-ErbB1 antibodies commonly
1061 involves genomic alterations affecting downstream effectors, such as KRAS, NRAS,
1062 and PIK3CA mutations. Thus, patients with RAS mutations activate downstream
1063 pathways and establish a bypass survival route [34] (Figure 1). Unfortunately, even
1064 responders develop secondary resistance in a few months, with less than 35% of CRC
1065 patients responding to the combination of chemotherapy and anti-ErbB therapies. This
1066 **acquired** resistance is driven by mutational or epigenetic activation of pathways
1067 downstream of ErbB receptors, including PTEN deletions or ErbB1/ErbB2
1068 amplifications. These ErbB amplifications modify the availability of antibodies for their
1069 target and lead to the predominance and reactivation of the targeted receptor.
1070 Alterations in apoptosis pathways can also serve as a tumor-mediated survival
1071 mechanism.

1072
1073 In addition to mutational status, numerous cancers exhibit "bypass track" acquired
1074 resistances, by which the tumor maintains its oncogenic activity despite receptor
1075 targeting [24,34]. These alternative signaling pathways are driven by the activation of
1076 other RTK or changes in ErbB ligands abundance/diversity (Figure 1). Hence, TKIs and
1077 antibodies resistances encompass bypass track activation due to Met amplification in
1078 LC and CRC [35] or insulin growth factor receptor (IGF) amplification in BC [36].
1079 Overexpression of AXL [35] and hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) are also found in LC
1080 [37]. These alternative pathways also include a compensatory system among ErbB
1081 receptors, especially involving ErbB2 and ErbB3 [7].

1082
1083 The tumor microenvironment can also influence resistance to conventional therapies
1084 by secreting compounds that create physical barriers and limit antibody binding to their

1085 targets. This biomechanical barrier includes tumor-related factors such as stiffness,
1086 porosity, and bioadhesiveness [38] as well as partners like MUC4 TM mucin and CD44,
1087 which may mask ErbB epitopes [19] (Figure I). Post-transcriptional regulation by long
1088 non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) and exosomes which transport and remodel the stromal
1089 component of tumors, also contributes to the resistance against anti-ErbB therapies by
1090 modulating intracellular signaling [39,40].

1091 **Box 1. Figure I Intrinsic and acquired mechanisms of resistance to conventional**
1092 **ErbB-targeted therapies in cancers.** *Mutations of ErbB receptors and/or downstream*
1093 *effectors, as well as activation of alternative pathways by ErbB partners and RTK*
1094 *bypass track lead to monoclonal antibody and tyrosine kinase inhibitor-resistant cancer*
1095 *cells.*

1096
1097

1098 **Box 2 - Protein-protein interfaces as attractive targets to design anti-ErbB small**
1099 **molecules**

1100 Protein-protein interactions (PPI) play a fundamental role in cellular and molecular
1101 processes, exerting regulatory control over various biochemical reactions, including
1102 signal transduction, metabolism and survival [41,42]. Given their pivotal role,
1103 modulating PPIs holds paramount importance in both fundamental and translational
1104 research, facilitating a deeper comprehension of biological processes and serving as
1105 a theoretical basis for the development of innovative therapeutic agents [43,44]. This
1106 led to the design of orthosteric ligands targeting the interaction interfaces, particularly
1107 the development of inhibitory peptides. These peptides typically mimic the secondary
1108 structure of the targeted interaction interfaces, disrupting the critical "interaction
1109 hotspots" identified within the PPI interface [45]. In this way, inhibitory peptides are
1110 engineered to exhibit a high degree of specificity for binding to and modulating a
1111 diverse range of targets implicated in various diseases [46].

1112 Peptides are a type of pharmacological small molecules constituted of short-chain
1113 amino acids, usually <5000 Da, that are stabilized by disulfide bonds. Compared to
1114 conventional small molecules, therapeutic peptides offer several advantages, including
1115 enhanced flexibility, solubility, favorable pharmacokinetic profiles, and targeted tissue
1116 specific distribution patterns. They also demonstrate superior tissue penetration and
1117 membrane permeability compared to larger proteins and antibodies. However, they
1118 face problematics encompassing stability in sera, protease degradation and rapidity of
1119 clearance [46,47].

1120 In cancers, membrane receptors participate in intricate interactomes, frequently driving
1121 the activation of oncoproteins. Consequently, the targeting of these receptors through
1122 peptide-based approaches, such as **phage-display technology** and computer-
1123 assisted design processes, has garnered significant attention, owing to the safety
1124 profile of peptide-based anticancer agents. Indeed, anti-cancer peptides exhibit
1125 notable efficacy, potency, target selectivity, low immunogenicity and low toxicity,
1126 making them a valuable therapeutic tool for oncological applications. Their reduced

1127 toxicity is particularly advantageous in minimizing side effects, preventing
1128 tumorigenesis, and circumventing resistance to TKIs by targeting processes upstream
1129 of signaling pathways [48]. Therefore, therapeutic peptides represent a promising
1130 avenue for the development of anticancer agents and have been naturally used as a
1131 new strategy to target ErbB oncoreceptors [49]. In this context, peptide-based
1132 inhibitory strategies either focus on impeding the interaction between the ligand and
1133 the ErbB receptor or disrupting ErbB complexes or associated partners. The majority
1134 of these inhibitory peptides are designed to target ErbB1 and ErbB2 receptors, and
1135 can be categorized as "mimetic peptides" [48,50] or "de novo" synthesized peptides
1136 that specifically block portions of the receptor [46].
1137
1138

1139 **Box 3 - Biochemical features of EGF-like domains in membrane and secreted** 1140 **proteins: New ErbB activators?**

1141 There are several conventional ligands which selectively bind to specific ErbB
1142 receptors. Epidermal Growth Factor (EGF), Amphiregulin (AR), Transforming Growth
1143 Factor α (TGF- α), Betacellulin (BTC), Epiregulin (EPR), and Heparin binding-EGF (HB-
1144 EGF) bind ErbB1. ErbB3 is responsive to two ligands, Neuregulins 1 and 2 (NRG1 and
1145 NRG2), and ErbB4 interacts with seven ligands, including Neuregulins 1, 2, 3 and 4
1146 (NRG3 and NRG4), BTC, HB-EGF, and EPR. Interestingly, only ErbB2 remains an
1147 orphan receptor with no known soluble ligands [1]. Among them, EGF is the ligand with
1148 the highest affinity for ErbB receptors and has been intensively identified to promote
1149 tumorigenesis [1,2]. However, alternative ligands of ErbB receptors have emerged
1150 from structural domains within extracellular and membrane proteins: EGF-like domains
1151 [119,120]. These domains are evolutionarily conserved protein domains derived from
1152 the EGF, whose nomenclature arises from their structural resemblance with the human
1153 EGF ligand. EGF-like domains are small domains (~5kDa) which possess 6 key
1154 cysteine residues that form three intramolecular disulfide bonds to fold the protein into
1155 a compact globular structure. Despite differences in aa sequences, these domains
1156 exhibit similar disulfide bridge arrangements, resulting in a shared 3D structure with
1157 soluble EGF (Figure 1). Typically, EGF-like domains comprise approximately 30 to 40
1158 aa residues and are present in approximately 30% of animal proteins [119,120].
1159 Additionally, EGF-like domains often occur in multiple tandem copies within proteins,
1160 folding together to form a linear solenoid domain block that functions as a structural
1161 unit.

1162 Given their prevalence in the extracellular compartment, EGF-like domains play pivotal
1163 roles in signaling pathways [120,121]. Functionally, they serve as sensors by
1164 regulating protein rigidity, or as spacers, positioning adjacent domains within proximity
1165 for interactions. However, their most intriguing modalities is their ability to directly
1166 participate in protein-protein interactions and receptor activation. In some cases, EGF-
1167 like domains are cleaved from their transmembrane proteins by extracellular
1168 proteases, resulting in long-range signaling events [121]. In the context of cancer

1169 progression and resistances, these extracellular matrix proteins containing EGF-like
1170 domains represent an underexplored axis for activating ErbB family receptors.

1171 **Box 3. Figure I Putative 3D structure and electrostatic surfaces of oncomucin**
1172 **MUC4 EGF-like domains.** *Spatial organization of MUC4 EGF-like domains,*
1173 *modelized with Chimera software, based on a homology model with the human EGF.*
1174 *EGF-like domains of MUC4 are particularly globular, conserving structural features*
1175 *with the native EGF ligand.*

1176

1177

1178 TABLES

1179 **Table 1. Conventional therapies targeting ErbB receptors for cancer treatment.**

1180 List of monoclonal antibodies, ADC and tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) specifically
1181 targeting ErbB1/ErbB2/ErbB3/ErbB4 receptors, which were approved by FDA/EMA or
1182 being under clinical investigation. Anti-ErbB4 monoclonal antibodies and TKI targeting
1183 ErbB3 or ErbB4 are listed due to their first-in-class aspect, even if they are only under
1184 pre-clinical studies. Abbreviations: CRC: colorectal cancer; NSCLC: non-small cell
1185 lung cancer; HNSCC: head and neck squamous cell cancer; BC: breast cancer; GOC:
1186 gastroesophageal cancer.

1187

Monoclonal antibodies targeting ErbB Receptors

Therapeutic molecule	ErbB targeted	Main indication	Clinical trial or date of approval or reference
Cetuximab	ErbB1	Approved for Ras mutated CRC and metastatic HNSCC	2004
Panitumumab	ErbB1	Approved for Ras CRC	2006/2007
Nimotuzumab	ErbB1	Approved for gliomas and HNSCC	2014
Necitumumab	ErbB1	Approved for metastatic NSCLC	2015/2016
KL-140	ErbB1	Phase III trial for CRC	NCT03426371
CMAB-009	ErbB1	Phase II/III for metastatic CRC	NCT03206151
Imgatuzumab	ErbB1	Phase II for locally advanced/metastatic EGFR+ solid tumors	NCT00721266
ABT-806	ErbB1	Phase II trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT01406119
CPGJ-602	ErbB1	Phase II trial for metastatic CRC	NCT04466254
Sym004	ErbB1	Phase II trial for solid tumors	NCT01955473
SCT-200	ErbB1	Phase I trial for metastatic HNSCC	NCT05552807
AMG-595	ErbB1	Phase I trial for recurrent gliomas	NCT01475006
HLX07	ErbB1	Phase I trial for advanced solid cancers	NCT02648490
Depatuxizumab mafodotin (ABT414)	ErbB1 + auristatin F (ADC)	Phase III trial for recurrent glioblastomas	NCT02343406
MRG-003	ErbB1 + auristatin E (ADC)	Phase II trials for advanced or metastatic EGFR+ biliary tract cancer, Nasopharyngeal carcinoma, HNSCC and NSCLC	NCT05126719 NCT04868162 NCT04838964 NCT04838548
Trastuzumab	ErbB2	Approved for ErbB2+ gastric and breast cancers	1998
Pertuzumab	ErbB2	Approved for ErbB2+ BC	2012
Margetuximab (MGHA22)	ErbB2	Approved for ErbB2+ metastatic BC	2020
MM-302	ErbB2	Phase II/III trial for ErbB2+ locally advanced/metastatic BC	NCT02213744
Inetetamab	ErbB2	Phase II trial for ErbB2+ metastatic BC	NCT05823623
Tastuzumab-emtansine	ErbB2 + microtubule inhibitor (ADC)	Approved for ErbB2+ metastatic BC	2013

Tastuzumab-Deruxtecan	ErbB2 + topoisomerase I inhibitor (ADC)	Approved for ErbB2+ metastatic BC	2022
Trastuzumab duocarmycin (SYD985)	ErbB2 + DNA alkylator derivate (ADC)	Phase III trial for ErbB2+metastatic BC	NCT03262935
Trastuzumab rezetecan (SHR-A1811)	ErbB2 + topoisomerase I inhibitor (ADC)	Phase II/III trial for ErbB2+ and ErbB2 ^{low} metastatic BC and ErbB2+ GOC	NCT06057610 NCT05769010 NCT06123494
ARX788	ErbB2 + anti-mitotic dolastatin (ADC)	Phase II/III trial for ErbB2+ BC	NCT05426486
Disitamab Vedotin (RC48)	ErbB2 + auristatin E (ADC)	Phase II/III trial for ErbB2+ and ErbB2 ^{low} metastatic BC and ErbB2+ gastric cancers	NCT03500380 NCT04714190 NCT04400695
MRG002	ErbB2 + auristatin E (ADC)	Phase II/III trial for ErbB2+ and ErbB2 ^{low} locally advanced/metastatic BC	NCT04924699 NCT04742153
BDC-1001	ErbB2 + immune stimulator TLR-7/8 agonist (ADC)	Phase II trial for ErbB2+ advanced solid tumors	NCT04278144
BAY2701439	ErbB2 + thorium-227 radionuclides (ADC)	Phase II trial for ErbB2+ advanced solid tumors	NCT04147819
SBT6050	ErbB2 + immune stimulator TLR-8 agonist (ADC)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ solid tumors	NCT04460456
NJH395	ErbB2 + immune stimulator TLR-7 agonist (ADC)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ advanced cancer	NCT03696771
ALT-P7	ErbB2 + auristatin E (ADC)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ BC	NCT03281824
FS-1502/IKS014	ErbB2 + auristatin E (ADC)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ advanced tumors and BC	NCT03944499
XMT-1522	ErbB2 + auristatin derivative AF-HPA (ADC)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ advanced BC	NCT02952729
XMT-2056	ErbB2 + immune system activator (ADC)	Phase I for Advanced/Recurrent ErbB2+ Solid Tumors	NCT05514717
BB-1701	ErbB2 + microtubule inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I for ErbB2+ locally advanced/metastatic BC	NCT04257110
DB-1303	ErbB2 + topoisomerase I inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I trial for advanced and metastatic tumors	NCT05150691
A166	ErbB2 + microtubule inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I trial for refractory ErbB2+ solid tumors	NCT03602079
DX126-262	ErbB2 + microtubule inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I trial for refractory ErbB2+ advanced BC and/or Gastric cancers	CTR20191224
DHES0815A	ErbB2 + DNA alkylator/cross linker	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ BC	NCT03451162
ORM-5029	ErbB2 + PROTAC targeting cell cycle molecule GSTP1 (DAC)	Phase I trial for advanced-stage ErbB2+ solid tumours	NCT05511844

Patritumab (U3-1287)	ErbB3	Phase III trial for advanced/metastatic NSCLC	NCT02134015
Seribantumab (MM-121)	ErbB3	Phase II trial for ErbBs+ NSCLC and advanced solid tumors harboring NRG1 fusion	NCT02387216 NCT04383210
Barecetamab (ISU104)	ErbB3	Phase I trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT03552406
GSK2849330	ErbB3	Phase I trial for advanced ErbB3+ solid tumors	NCT01966445
AV-203 (CAN017)	ErbB3	Phase I trial for Metastatic or advanced solid tumors	NCT01603979
REGN1400	ErbB3	Phase I trial for advanced NSCLC, CRC or HNSCC	NCT01727869
HMBD-001	ErbB3	Phase I trial for solid tumors harboring an NRG1 Fusion, ErbB3+ solid tumor or cancers with ErbB3 Mutations	NCT05919537 NCT05057013
SIBP-03	ErbB3	Phase I trial for advanced malignant solid tumors	NCT05203601
Sym013	Pan-ErbB (mixture mAbs)	Phase I/II trial for epithelial malignancies	NCT02906670
Patritumab deruxtecan (U3-1402)	ErbB3 + topoisomerase I inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I trial for locally advanced or metastatic EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT04619004
YL202	ErbB3 + topoisomerase I inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I for locally advanced/metastatic NSCLC and BC	NCT05653752
DB-1310	ErbB3 + topoisomerase I inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I/II trial for advanced/metastatic solid tumors	NCT05785741
P6-1	ErbB4	Preclinical studies in 3D models of BC	[26]
C6	ErbB4	Preclinical studies in triple-negative BC cell lines (in vitro), metastatic BC cell lines and ovarian cancer cell lines (in vivo)	[26]
Ab1479	ErbB4	Preclinical studies in ErbB4+ BC cell lines and ER+ BC cell lines (in vitro)	[26]

Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors targeting ErbB Receptors

Therapeutic molecule	ErbB targeted	Main Indication	Clinical trial or date of approval or reference
1st generation (reversible TKI – targeting Del19/L858R ErbB mutations)			
Erlotinib	ErbB1	Approved for metastatic NSCLC and metastatic pancreatic cancer	2004/2005
Gefitinib	ErbB1	Approved for metastatic NSCLC	2003
Lapatinib	ErbB2/ErbB1	Approved for ErbB2+ metastatic BC	2007
Tucatinib	ErbB2	Approved for ErbB2+ metastatic BC and ErbB2+ and CRC non Ras-mutated	2020
Icotinib	ErbB1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved in China for advanced and metastatic NSCLC Phase II/III trial for late stage EGFR-mutated NSCLC 	2011 (China) NCT02448797
BPI-15086	ErbB1	Phase I trial for EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT02914990
Theliatinib (HMPL-309)	ErbB1	Phase I trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT02601248
Epitinib (HMPL-813)	ErbB1	Phase I trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT02590952
Molecule I _k and I _{la}	ErbB4	Pre-clinical studies in metastatic BC cell lines	[26]
Compound A and B	ErbB4	Pre-clinical studies in metastatic BC cell lines	[29]
2nd generation (irreversible TKI – targeting Del19/L858R/T790M ex20ins ErbB mutations)			
Afatinib	Pan-ErbB	Approved for EGFR- mutated metastatic NSCLC	2013
Neratinib	ErbB2/ErbB1/ErbB4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved for ErbB2+ breast cancer Phase II clinical studies in solid tumors with ErbB1 or ErbB2 mutations (NCT01953926) 	2017
Dacomitinib	ErbB1/ErbB2/ErbB4	Approved for EGFR-mutated metastatic NSCLC	2018
Pyrotinib	ErbB1/ErbB2/ErbB4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved in China for ErbB2+ breast cancer Phase II clinical studies for ErbB2+ advanced CRC Phase III trial for NSCLC Harboring a ErbB2 Exon 20 Mutation 	2018 (China) NCT04380012 NCT04447118
Pozotinib	ErbB2/ErbB4/ ErbB1 (ex20ins)	Phase II trial for Exon 20 Mutant Advanced NSCLC	NCT03066206
Canertinib	ErbB1/ErbB2/ErbB4	Phase II trial for EGFR-mutated advanced NSCLC aborted due to toxicity and poor benefit/risk ratio	NCT00050830
Pelitinib	ErbB1	Phase I trial for solid tumors aborted due to toxicity and poor benefit/risk ratio	NCT00098501
TX1-85-1	ErbB3	Pre-clinical studies in NSCLC	[7]
Molecule I and II	ErbB4	Pre-clinical studies in several cancer cell lines	[30]
3rd generation (irreversible TKI – targeting Del19/L858R/T790M or ex20ins ErbB mutations)			
Osimertinib	ErbB1 /ErbB2/ ErbB3	Approved for EGFR-mutated advanced and metastatic NSCLC	2015
Lazertinib (YH25448)	ErbB1	Approved for EGFR-mutated advanced or metastatic NSCLC patients with previous EGFR TKI therapy and Phase III trial as first-line for EGFR-mutated advanced/metastatic NSCLC	2021 NCT04248829
Olmotinib	ErbB1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved in South Korea for EGFR-mutated NSCLC Phase III trial for EGFR-mutated NSCLC 	2016 (South Korea) NCT04035486
Mobocertinib (TAK-788)	ErbB1 (ex20ins)	Approved for EGFR-mutated ex20ins metastatic NSCLC	2021
Sunvozertinib (DZD9008)	ErbB1 (ex20ins)/ ErbB2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved for locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC with EGFR exon20ins mutations Phase I/II trial for NSCLC with EGFR or ErbB2 mutations 	2023 NCT03974022

Limertinib (ASK-120067)	ErbB1	Phase III trial for advanced or metastatic EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT04143607
Nazartinib (EGF816)	ErbB1	Phase III clinical studies in EGFR-mutated advanced or metastatic NSCLC	NCT03529084
Naquotinib (ASP8273)	ErbB1	Phase III trial for EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT02588261
Zipalertinib (CLN-081)	ErbB1 (ex20ins)	Phase III trial for advanced ex20ins EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT05973773
Tarloxotinib	Pan-ErbB	Phase II trial for NSCLC with EGFR Exon 20 Insertion, HER2-activating Mutations & Other Solid Tumors With NRG1/ERBB Gene Fusions	NCT03805841
Befotertinib (D-0316)	ErbB1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved for advanced metastatic NSCLC who received EGFR TKI therapy Phase II trial for EGFR+ NSCLC 	2023 (China) NCT03861156
Keynatinib	ErbB1	Phase II NSCLC and brain metastases	NCT04824079
SH-1028	ErbB1	Phase II trial for advanced or metastatic NSCLC	NCT04239833
Almonertinib (HS-10296)	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced or metastatic NSCLC	NCT02981108
Rezivertinib (BPI-7711)	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced or metastatic EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT03866499
olafertinib (CK-101/RK518)	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced NSCLC with EGFR mutations and other advanced malignancies	NCT02926768
TAS-121	ErbB1	Phase I trial for advanced NSCLC	JapicCTI-142651
FCN-411	ErbB1	Phase I for advanced EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT03420079
Rociletinib (CO-1686)	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced or metastatic EGFR-mutated NSCLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finally unapproved due to less anti-tumoral effects compared to osimertinib 	NCT02580708
Alflutinib/Furmonertinib (AST2818)	ErbB1 (ex20ins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved in China for locally advanced/metastatic NSCLC with EGFR ex20ins Phase I for ex20ins EGFR-mutated NSCLC 	2021 (China) NCT04858958
Simotinib (SIM-6802)	ErbB1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved in China for solid tumor treatment Phase I trial for advanced NSCLC 	2018 (China) NCT01772732
4th generation (TKI – targeting 3rd generation TKI resistance: targeting Del19/L858R/T790M/C797S or ex20ins ErbB mutations)			
BBT-176	ErbB1 (Reversible)	Phase I/II trial for advanced NSCLC with progression after EGFR TKI treatment	NCT04820023
JIN-A02	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT05394831
BLU-701	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for EGFR- mutated NSCLC	NCT05153408
HS-10375	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced or metastatic EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT05435248
WJ13405	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for advanced or metastatic NSCLC	NCT05662670
BLU-945	ErbB1 (Reversible)	Phase I/II trial for the targeting of EGFR Resistance Mechanisms in NSCLC	NCT04862780
BPI-361175	ErbB1	Phase I/II for advanced Solid Tumors	NCT05329298
BAY2927088	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for EGFR- mutated or ErbB2-mutated NSCLC	NCT05099172
BDTX-1535	ErbB1	Phase I/II trial for glioblastoma or NSCLC with EGFR mutations	NCT05256290
TBQ-3804	ErbB1	Phase I for advanced malignant tumors	NCT04128085
QLH11811	ErbB1	Phase I trial for advanced EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT05555212
Multi-kinase inhibitors			
Brigatinib	ErbB1/IGF1R/ALK/ROS/ FLT3	Approved for refractory ALK-positive metastatic NSCLC	2017
Vandetanib	VEGFR2/RET/ ErbB1 T790M	Approved for locally advanced or metastatic disease	2011
Abivertinib / Avitinib (AC0010)	BTK/ErbB1 T790M	Phase II trial for advanced EGFR-mutated NSCLC	NCT03300115

Tesevatinib	ErbB1/ErbB2/VEGFR-2/VEGFR-3/ CSK/ EPHB4	Phase II trial for recurrent glioblastomas harboring EGFR amplifications	NCT02844439
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1190 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

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1192 **Figure 1. Innovative strategies targeting ErbB receptor to curtail therapeutic**
1193 **resistances in cancers.**

1194 **(A) ErbB Bispecific antibodies strategies.** ErbB-bispecific antibodies can either
1195 bridge two ErbB receptors or ErbB receptors and another RTK to reduce the RTK-
1196 mediated bypass track resistance (1). They can also bridge tumor cell and immune cell
1197 (2) or bridge ErbB receptors with cytokines to enhance anti-tumor immune response
1198 (3). **(B) Peptide-based targeted therapies.** Peptide can efficiently target the ErbB-
1199 ligand interaction or the ErbB dimerization to prevent ErbB activation. Juxtamembrane
1200 and intracellular peptides are also designed to destabilize the ErbB complex formation.
1201 They also act as drug carrier or ErbB-tumor specific photosensitizer for photodynamic
1202 therapy. **(C) PROTAC and LYTAC strategy targeting ErbB receptor for**
1203 **degradation.** PROTAC and LYTAC hijack proteasome and lysosome-endosome
1204 pathways respectively, to generate ErbB-targeted protein degradation. In ErbB-
1205 PROTACs, pomalidomide ligand (CRBN) and von Hippel-Lindau ligand (VHL) are
1206 commonly used E3 ligase ligands; TLR: Lysosome Targeting Receptor. **(D) ErbB-**
1207 **targeted nanobodies.** Nanobodies resume monoclonal antibodies functions with the
1208 targeting of ErbB epitopes, the capacity of carrying drugs and the ability to bind
1209 different epitopes as bispecific nanobodies. Due to their small size, they can easily
1210 penetrate tumors and minimize steric hindrance generated by tumor
1211 microenvironment. They can also be used for CAR/UniCAR-T cell and therapeutic
1212 stem cell strategies; TM: Targeting Module.

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1215 **Figure 2. EGF-like domains containing proteins as ErbB alternative ligands.**

1216 **(A)** Transmembrane proteins (1), or secreted proteins (2) encompassing regions with
1217 EGF-like domains can interact with the ErbB1 or ErbB2 receptors at the surface of
1218 tumor cells and constitute alternative activators/ligands of this receptor family. Matrix
1219 metalloprotease (MMP) can cleave and liberate EGF-like domains within secreted
1220 proteins (3) to activate ErbB receptor. **(B)** EGF-like domains of mucins, such as MUC4,
1221 interact with ErbB2 to activate signaling pathways and promote tumor progression.
1222 Mucin glycosylation may also limit accessibility to antibody-based targeted therapies

1223 (ex: Trastuzumab). (C) EGF-like domains in extracellular matrix proteins or membrane
1224 proteins are targets to design therapeutic inhibitors (small molecules, peptides) of ErbB
1225 receptors.

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Bispecific antibodies targeting ErbB Receptors			
Therapeutic molecule	Targets	Main indication	Clinical trial or date of approval or reference
Bridging two receptors on tumor cells			
Amivantamab (JNJ61186372)	ErbB1/c-Met	Approved for NSCLC with EGFR mutation and MET amplification	2021
Bafisontamab (EMB-01)	ErbB1/c-Met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I/II trial for advanced solid tumors Phase II trial for metastatic NSCLC with EGFR mutation and/or MET amplification 	NCT03797391 NCT05498389
LY3164530	ErbB1/c-Met	Phase I trial for neoplasm	NCT02221882
Zenocutuzumab (MCLA-128)	ErbB2/ErbB3	eNRGy phase I/II trial in solid tumors harboring NRG1 fusion	NCT02912949
Izalontamab (SI-B001)	ErbB1/ErbB3	Phase II trial for locally advanced or metastatic EGFR/ALK wild-type NSCLC	NCT05020457
BL-B01D1	ErbB1/ErbB3	Phase I trial for locally advanced/metastatic gastrointestinal tumor and other solid Tumor	NCT05262491
M-1231	ErbB1/MUC1 + Hemiasterlin (ADC)	Phase I trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT04695847
Duligotuzumab (MEHD7945A)	ErbB3/ErbB1	Phase I trial for metastatic HNSCC	NCT01911598
Zanidatamab (ZW25)	ErbB2/ErbB2 (≠ epitopes)	Phase III trial for metastatic ErbB2+ GOC	NCT05152147
Zanidatamab Zovodotin (ZW49)	ErbB2/ErbB2 (≠ epitopes + N-acyl sulfonamide auristatin (ADC))	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ cancers	NCT03821233
Anbenitamab (KN026)	ErbB2/ErbB2 (biparatopic)	Phase II trial for locally advanced ErbB2+ solid tumors	NCT04521179
MEDI4276	ErbB2/ErbB2 (≠ epitopes + tubulysin microtubule inhibitor (ADC))	Phase I/II trial for ErbB2+ BC and gastric cancers	NCT02576548
MBS301	ErbB2/ErbB2 (≠ epitopes)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ recurrent or metastatic malignant solid tumor	NCT03842085
BCD-147	ErbB2/ErbB2 (≠ epitopes)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ solid tumors	NCT03912441
MP0274	ErbB2/ErbB2 (biparatopic)	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ solid tumors	NCT03084926
Istiratamab (MM-141)	ErbB3/IGFR	Phase II trial for locally advanced or metastatic pancreatic cancers	NCT02538627
AZD9592	ErbB1/c-Met + topoisomerase inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT05647122
BL-B01D1 ADC	ErbB1/ErbB3 + topoisomerase inhibitor (ADC)	Phase I trial for unresectable or metastatic NSCLC	NCT05983432
Bridging tumor cells and immune cells			

AFM24	ErbB1/CD3 ErbB1/CD16A	Phase I/II trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT04259450
Runimotamab (BTRC4017A)	ErbB2/CD3	Phase I trial for locally advanced or metastatic ErbB2+ Cancers	NCT03448042
HER2Bi ATC	ErbB2/CD3	Phase I trial for metastatic BC	NCT03272334
M802	ErbB2/CD3	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ advanced solid tumors	NCT04501770
IBI315	ErbB2/PD-L1	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ advanced solid tumors	NCT04162327
MCLA-158	ErbB1/LGR5	Phase I trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT03526835
DF1001	ErbB2/NK engager	Phase I/II trial for advanced solid tumors	NCT04143711
PRS-343	ErbB2/4-1BB	Phase I trial for ErbB2+ solid tumors	NCT03330561
Bridging tumor cells and cytokines			
BCA101	ErbB1/TGF- β	Phase I trial in EGFR-driven advanced solid tumors	NCT04429542

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1237 **Table 2. Clinical development of Bispecific Antibodies targeting ErbB receptors.**

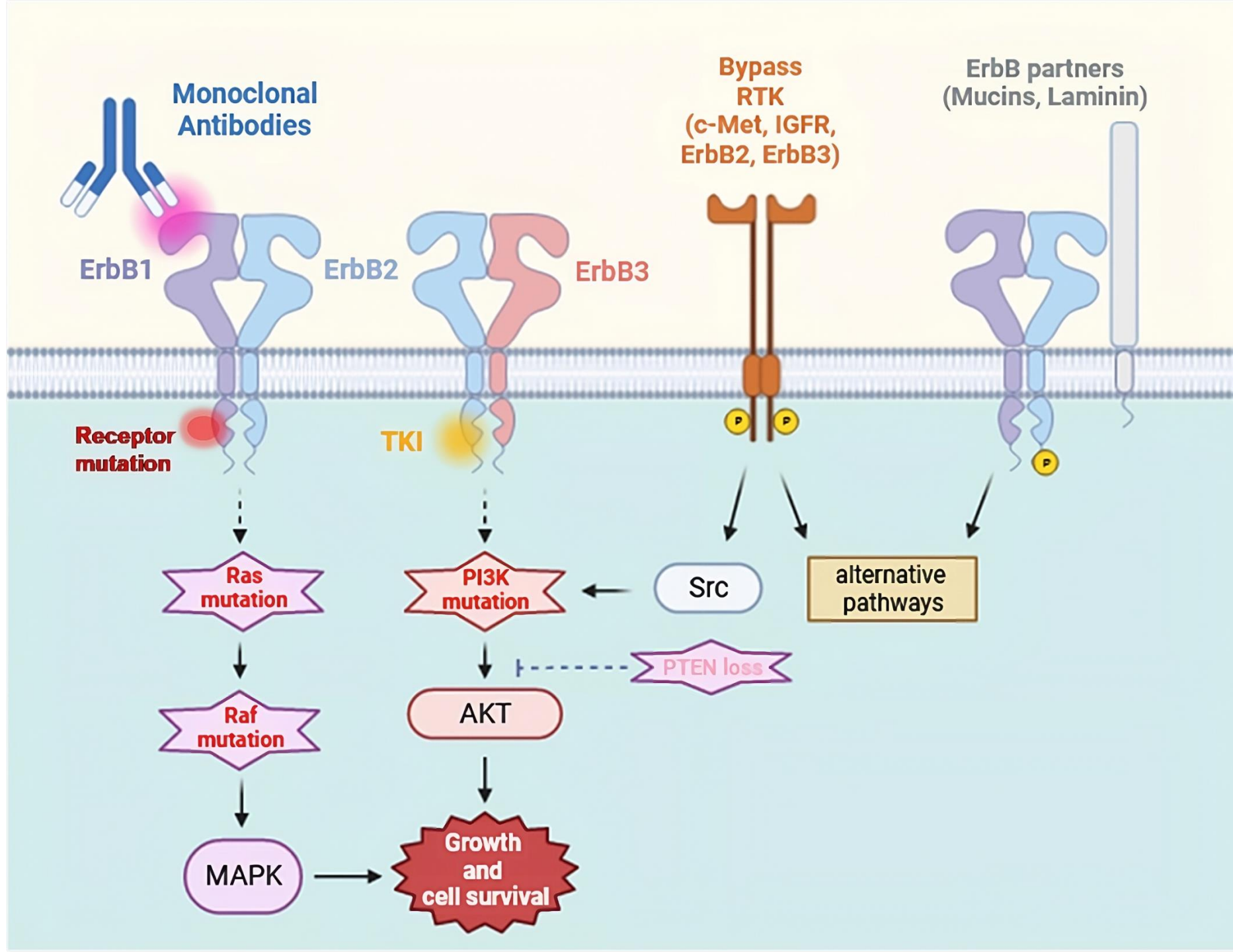
1238 List of bispecific antibodies targeting one or several ErbB receptors, which were
1239 approved by FDA/EMA or being under clinical investigation. Abbreviations: CRC:
1240 colorectal cancer; NSCLC: non-small cell lung cancer; HNSCC: head and neck
1241 squamous cell cancer; BC: breast cancer.

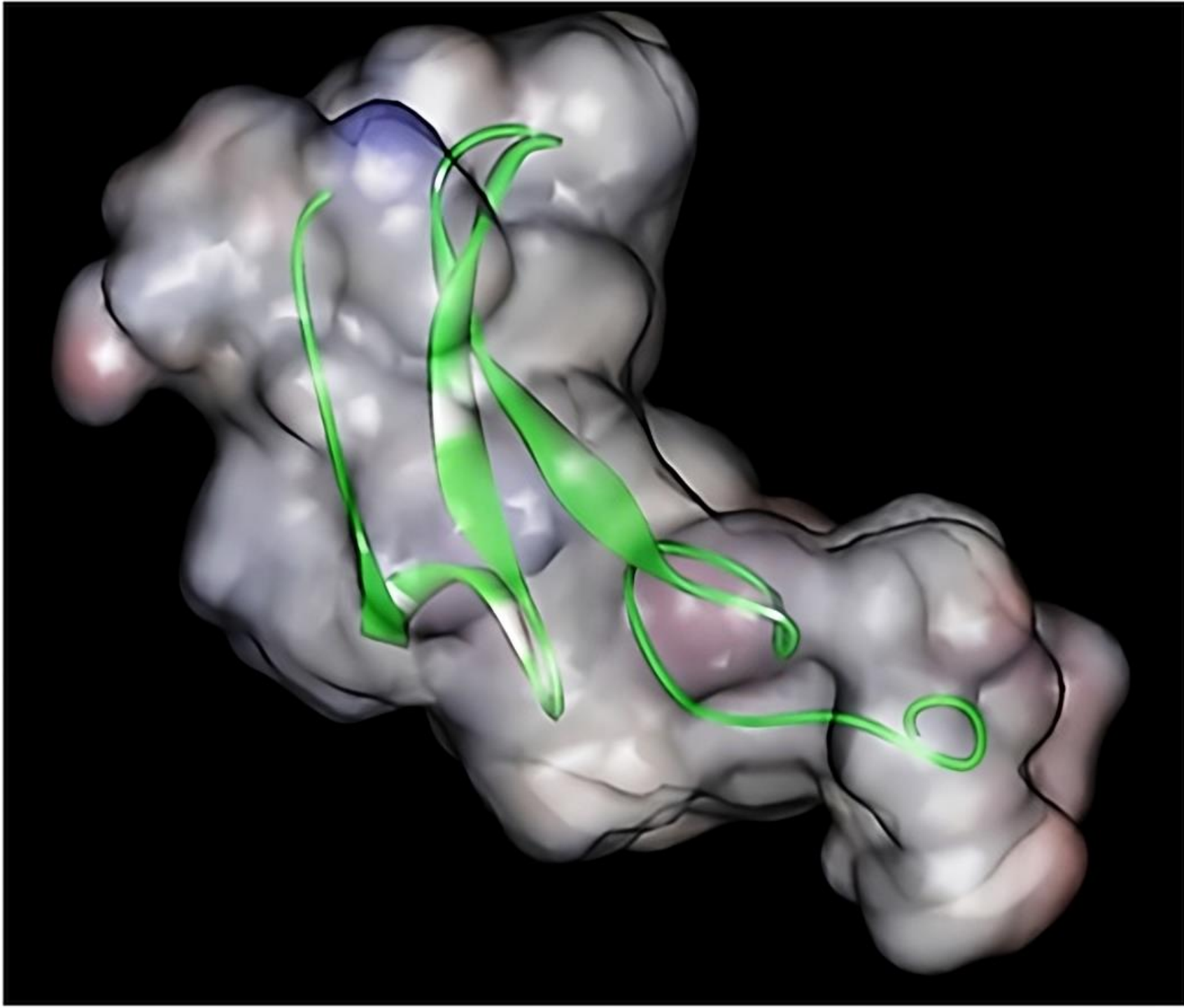
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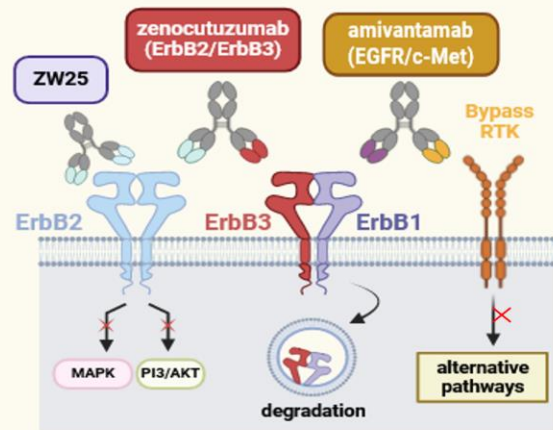
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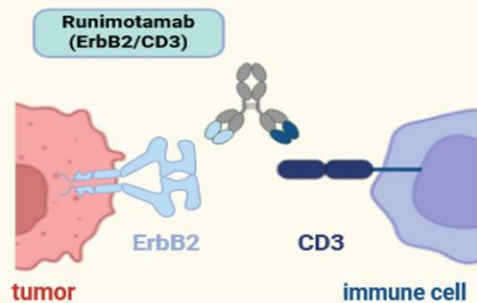




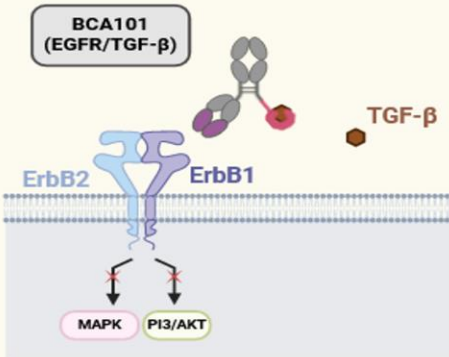
(A) 1. Targeting tumor-associated antigens



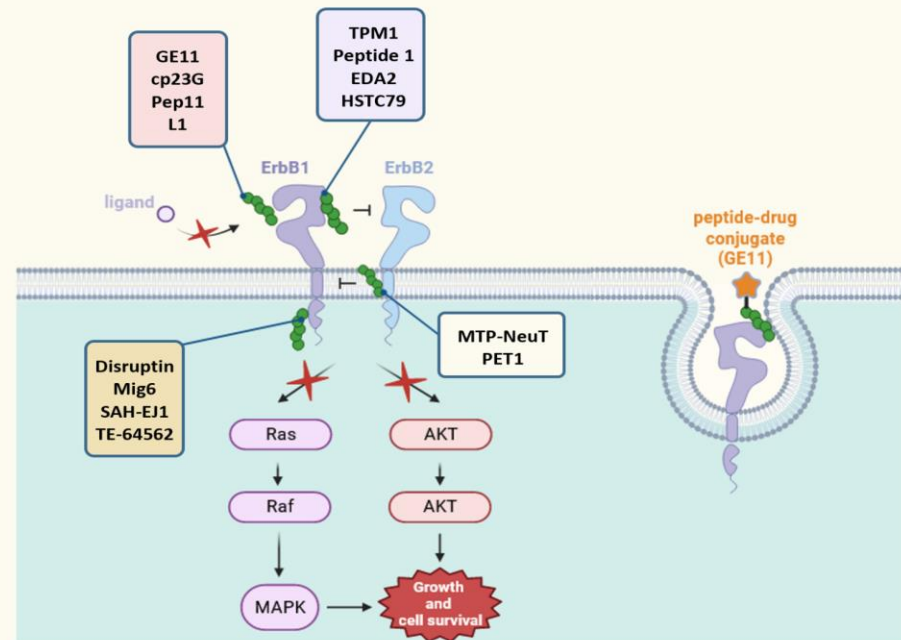
2. Bridging tumor and immune cells



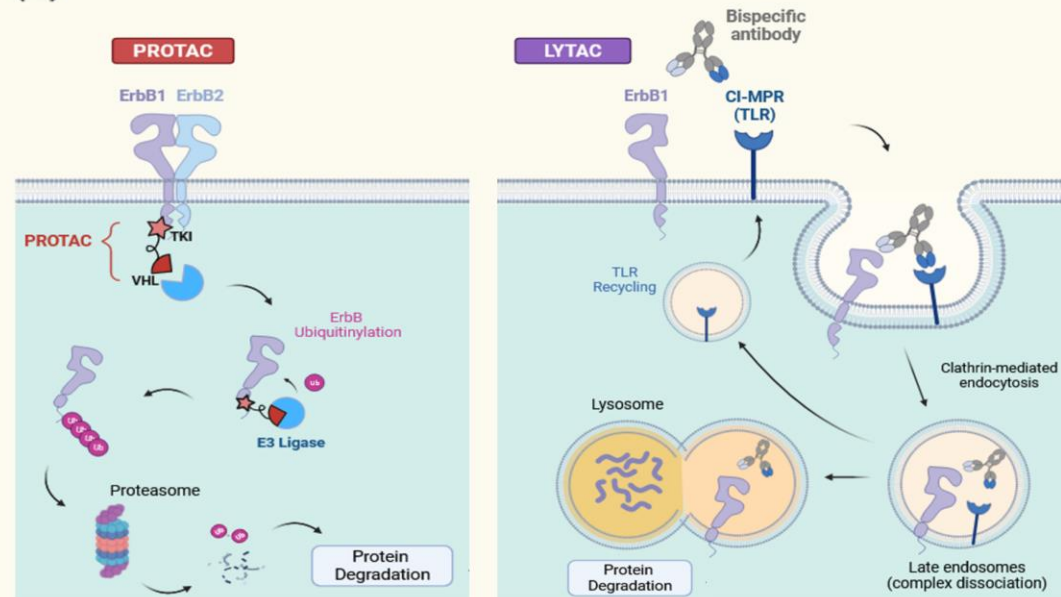
3. Targeting tumor and cytokines



(B)



(C)



(D)

