

3rd International Conference on

J Pharm Sci Emerg Drugs 2018, Volume:6 DOI: 10.4172/2380-9477-C8-027

PHARMACEUTICS & NOVEL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM

3rd International Conference on

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

December 05-06, 2018 Dubai, UAE

Molecular targeting and personalized cancer therapeutics

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Targeted cancer therapeutics are designed to interfere with molecular targets with a goal of fighting tumor cells with more precision and fewer side effects. Cancer biomarkers are most relevant for identifying patients who are likely to benefit from a given treatment (right drug for the right patient). Recently approved cancer therapies, that act on specific molecular targets, along with FDA-approved companion diagnostics, are presented. These molecular pathways are broadly classified as either 1) monoclonal antibodies that target transmembrane receptors or

extracellular growth factors or 2) small molecules that penetrate cell membrane and block and interfere with the enzymatic activity of the target proteins. Inhibitors of PI3K (phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase), CDK (cyclin-dependent kinase), PARP (DNA repair; poly ADP ribose polymerase), and IDH2 (isocitrate dehydrogenase-2) are presented. Also, large molecule immuno-oncology receptor binding is also discussed.

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