

NCI Launches Cancer Drug Formulary with Six Pharma Companies

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The National Cancer Institute opened a drug formulary as part of a public-private partnership with six pharmaceutical companies, allowing researchers to test the drugs in clinical and preclinical studies — alone or in combination with different companies' products.

As a part of the national cancer moonshot effort, the formulary grants investigators at NCI-designated cancer centers access to 15 investigational and approved drugs from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly and Company, Genentech, Kyowa Kirin, Loxo Oncology and Xcovery. NCI's Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program will work to include additional agents, with plans to double the number of drugs available by the end of the year, the institute said.

The formulary will complement an upcoming FDA-NIH joint project, the Partnership to Accelerate Cancer Therapies, the institute said. The agencies plan to work with private industry, foundations and advocacy organizations to support research projects focused on validating biomarkers and immunotherapies. The partnership is expected to launch later this year.