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Computational Engineering of a Therapeutic Antibody to Inhibit Multiple Mutants of HER2 Without Compromising Inhibition of the Canonical HER2

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Abstract

Genomic germline and somatic variations may impact drug binding and even lead to resistance. However, designing a different drug for each mutant may not be feasible. In this study, we identified the most common cancer somatic mutations from the Catalogue of Somatic Mutations in Cancer (COSMIC) that occur in structurally characterized binding sites of approved therapeutic antibodies. We found two HER2 mutations, S310Y and S310F, that substantially compromise binding of Pertuzumab, a widely used therapeutics, and lead to drug resistance. To address these mutations, we designed a multi-specific version of Pertuzumab, that retains original function while also bindings these HER2 variants. This new antibody is stable and inhibits HER3 phosphorylation in a cell-based assay for all three variants, suggesting it can inhibit HER2-HER3 dimerization in patients with any of the variants. This study demonstrates how a small number of carefully selected mutations can add new specificities to an existing antibody without compromising its original function, creating a single drug that targets multiple common variants, making a drug that is not personalized yet its activity may be.

eLife assessment

In this **important** manuscript, the authors used unbiased approaches to identify somatic mutations in publicly available databases that would disrupt clinically approved antibodies targeting HER2. Using a **solid** combination of both computational and experimental approaches they identify mutations that could restore therapeutic antibody sensitivity in a series of disease-relevant model systems. Additional cell-based and in vivo assays would strengthen the work and increase the translational and potential clinical relevance of the proposed work.

Introduction

Cells contain naturally occurring germline and somatic variations [1]. Cancer cells have more mutations than healthy cells due to somatic mutations [2]. COSMIC, a database for somatic mutations in cancer (cancer.sanger.ac.uk) [3], currently records over 23 million genomic variants in ~1.5 million clinical cancer samples, an average of 15 somatic mutations per sample. These somatic and germline mutations may affect the binding of drugs to their targets in different ways, compromising efficacy and conferring resistance [4]. Somatic and germline mutations have been shown to cause resistance to several anti-cancer drugs, *e.g.* EGFR mutations that cause gefitinib or cetuximab resistance [5, 6], Topoisomerase II mutation that causes Amascrine resistance [7] and HER2 mutations that cause resistance to lapatinib [8], trastuzumab [9] and aromatase inhibitors, tamoxifen or fulvestrant [10].

According to one account, in nearly half of cancer patients pre-existing resistance to chemotherapy is observed prior to, and independent of, treatment due to existing variations [11]. Thus, for many drugs, response rate is significantly reduced because of mutations that compromise efficacy. Possible effects of such mutations are steric hindrance of the drug binding pocket [12], target protein conformational changes [13], or reduced binding affinity [14].

It has been suggested that a customized design that considers specific variations in the drug target, may lead to new versions of existing drugs that will be more effective in patients with specific mutations [15]. However, mutations in the populations are usually overlooked in drug development [16, 17], and the development of mutation-specific versions of existing drugs poses commercial and regulatory challenges [17, 18].

A possible route for overcoming the challenge of genomic variations that cause drug resistance is the design of multi-specific drugs that can effectively bind common variants of the target protein. A single molecule that can bind slightly different variants of the target can provide a single general treatment that is produced, developed, and regulated once, and yet takes into consideration personal genomic profiles.

Antibodies are increasingly used as cancer therapeutics, due to their high affinity, exquisite specificity, long half-life, and their mammalian and sometimes even human origin [19]. Dual-specific antibodies were designed to target two distinct targets with a single antibody (“Two-in-one antibody”) [20–24]. Unlike bi-specific antibodies, which have different arms that bind different targets, dual-specific antibodies may be symmetrical IgGs, in which both arms can bind both targets. We propose that such antibodies can be computationally designed to recognize both wild-type and mutated versions of targets. Such a single multi-specific compound may address a wider range of mutants [25]. In infectious disease, a broadly neutralizing antibody (bnAb) is a naturally occurring antibody that binds multiple variants of the same protein, *e.g.*, in attacking the highly variable HIV-1 virus [26]. In the context of infectious diseases, such multi-specific Abs are directed toward one conserved epitope that is assumed to be the same in all variants. In the context of cancer, however, somatic cancer mutations that confer resistance to an effective treatment [27] may not leave a conserved active site that can be attacked by a broadly neutralizing antibody. Thus, inhibiting multiple variants with a single antibody requires the design of a multi-specific antibody that binds slightly altered epitopes to block known escape paths of the tumors [28]. While such an approach may not necessarily block all possible mutants and may create selective pressure for the emergence of new escape mutants, it will nonetheless increase the response rate and extend the duration of the response.

HER2, a human epidermal growth factor receptor (also known as ERBB2), is a known oncogene and is overexpressed in several cancers, e.g., breast [29], ovarian [29], gastric [30], salivary glands [31] and lung [32]. In breast cancer, it is over-expressed in about 15-30% of the tumors and is associated with poor prognosis [33]. HER2 mutations are found in 4% of all breast cancer patients and can go up to 10% in specific breast cancer subtypes. They are abundant in metastatic ER+ tumors, suggesting a role in acquired resistance to endocrine therapy [34]. In COSMIC v.95, there are 941 different cancer somatic genomic variations in HER2. There are four approved anti-HER2 antibodies, and five biosimilars [35]. Pertuzumab (Trade name: Perjeta®) [36] is a cancer treatment, approved for use in combination with Trastuzumab (trade name: Herceptin®) [37] and chemotherapy for treating breast and gastric cancers [38]. Pertuzumab inhibits HER2 dimerization, thus blocking the HER signaling pathway [36].

Here, we analyzed reported somatic mutations in cancer patients and identified two HER2 mutations, S310F and S310Y, that, according to our predictions, may confer resistance to Pertuzumab. Previous studies had shown that Pertuzumab does not bind these mutants [39, 40]. These mutants, however, do not disrupt HER2 dimerization [40]. In fact, due to *de-novo* hydrophobic interactions [39, 41], these mutations were found to stabilize and enhance HER2 dimerization [40, 42]. Cells expressing these mutations show hyperphosphorylation of HER2 and an increase in the subsequent activation of signaling pathways [39, 41]. Targeting these HER2 mutants is clinically important, as they were found to have oncogenic activity [41] and to promote cell migration, invasion, aggregation, and growth [39, 41, 43]. Each of these mutations has been identified independently both as a germline variation and a somatic mutation [44]. Thus, targeting them can be relevant not only for patients that were born with these mutations and do not respond to treatment but also for patients that acquire these mutations during their illness and become resistant. Using computational and experimental methods, we altered the original therapeutic antibody and turned it into a multi-specific antibody. The designed antibody retains its binding to canonical HER2 while also binding the two mutants S310F and S310Y. This computationally guided design of a multi-specific antibody suggests a framework for drug design that may allow for drug candidates that could be used for larger patient populations without requiring the development and regulatory approval of new, personalized drugs for smaller patient populations.

Results

Therapeutic Abs Target Mutations

COSMIC Mutation Data (Targeted Screens and Genome Screens) was filtered to find mutations in contact sites of therapeutic antibodies. **Supplementary Table 1** shows the number of mutations in each step of the filtration process. We found 102 known missense mutations that alter a residue in the interface between a clinical-stage antibody and its target but do not alter protein length. The most frequent mutations were HER2 S310F and S310Y. These mutations are present on the interface with Pertuzumab (trade name: Perjeta®) [36] which targets HER2 for breast cancer treatment. Each of these mutations has been identified independently both as a germline variation (rs1057519816 in dbSNP) and a somatic mutation (COSMIC Mutation Genomic IDs COSV54062198 and COSV54062802, respectively).

HER2 mutations disrupt Pertuzumab Binding

Two HER2 somatic cancer mutations from COSMIC are located in the interface with Pertuzumab as calculated from the 3D structure of the complex (PDB id: 1S78) and are fairly prevalent in the population. **Supplementary Figure 1A** shows that the predicted effects of the S310F and S310Y mutations on the Ab-Ag affinity as calculated by Maestro [45] are 3.48 and 2.62 kcal/mol. Note that residue numbering is different between the PDB structure and the Uniprot [46] sequence. S288 in the PDB structure numbering corresponds to S310 in the sequence numbering. Unless

otherwise specified, below we will use the Uniprot numbering. Using a previously suggested cutoff [47] of 3 kcal/mol as a guide for a significant predicted change in affinity, we estimated that these mutations will disrupt binding. The complete alignment of the canonical HER2 sequence and the crystalized residues is shown in **Supplementary Figure 2**. We experimentally validated these predicted effects of the mutations on drug binding. **Supplementary Figure 1B** shows experimentally measured effects of the mutations on Pertuzumab-HER2 binding for canonical HER2 as well as for the two mutants. Both S310 mutations abrogated HER2 binding to Pertuzumab. For our next objective, *i.e.*, designing a multi-specific antibody, we attempted to engineer an antibody that binds canonical HER2 as well as both S310 mutants.

Selections Yielded Tri-Specific Binders

To computationally engineer a variant of Pertuzumab that binds canonical HER2 and its main mutants, S310Y and S310F, we explored two strategies. The first approach was to search for mutations that can strengthen the interaction by directly altering the patch on the antibody surface that contacts S310. The other approach was to try and form new additional contacts in areas of the antibody that are in close spatial proximity to residues in HER2 but do not form energetically beneficial contacts with Pertuzumab. To this end, we designed a library based on Pertuzumab, focusing on antibody residues that are in close spatial proximity to S310. We also included variations in residues that are not in direct contact with HER2 but are near residues that form contacts with the goal of sampling conformational changes in the region that can strengthen binding. To maintain the antibody structure, we avoided residues with multiple intra-molecular bonds and residues that are evolutionarily conserved. This resulted in fourteen positions in which we introduced diversity, allowing all 20 possible amino acids in each position. **Figure 2A** shows a structure of the Pertuzumab-HER2 complex, highlighting SER310 in cyan (numbered as 288 in the PDB residue numbering) and the fourteen selected Pertuzumab residues for the library, color-coded by the reason for choosing them: Direct contact with S310, spatial proximity to the S310, adjacency to a residue contacting S310. We also added diversity in antibody residues that contact the HER2 in other positions that are not S310, to allow for the strengthening of the complex through alternate interactions.

Figure 1A shows all 14 residues on Pertuzumab heavy chain that were selected for variation, with their corresponding number on the PDB 1S78 structure. Experimental constraints in yeast transformation and yeast surface display limit tractable library size to 10^9 variants. Hence, with reasonable undersampling, we wished to reduce the diversity of the designed library so that it's within two orders of magnitude of the experimentally tractable size. We thus limited the number of mutations in each variant such that no more than six mutations are allowed in one sequence in the library. This also helped assure that the variants in the library are not too different from the Pertuzumab sequence and are more likely to maintain a developable profile. The 14 positions selected for the introduction of variation were divided into four groups based on their sequence position, as shown in **Figure 1B** and the last column of **Figure 1A**. Based on this division we constructed the library such that each variant in the library will have representative mutations from each group, covering all possible combinations. **Figure 1C** shows the predetermined number of residues that were mutated from each of the four groups to reduce the diversity of the library, sampling for a total of 3.86×10^{11} sequences. Using yeast surface display the library was selected against the three variants. **Supplementary Figure 3** shows the complete selection scheme, with two MACS rounds and two FACS rounds. After three rounds of selection, a population of putative binders was gated. **Figure 2B** shows the scatter plot of this gated population against each of the three variants of HER2. As illustrated by the figure, this population appears to contain binders for all three HER2 variants. The cells in the top right quadrant of each plot, which represent putative binders, were collected for the next round of selection.

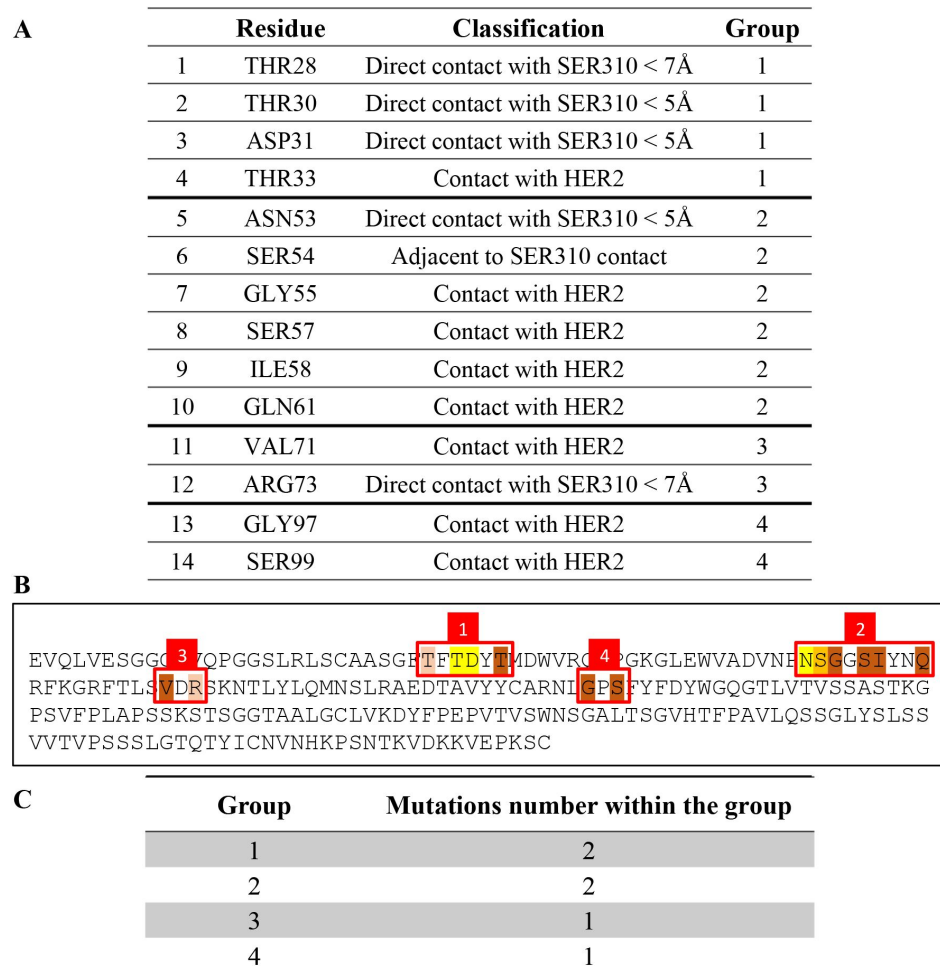


Figure 1.

A Fourteen putative residues from Pertuzumab heavy chain that were chosen to be mutated. Each residue is classified for the reason it was chosen: in direct contact with SER310, adjacent to a SER310 contact, or a general contact with HER2 that was chosen to strengthen binding. Each residue was assigned to one of four groups based on its sequence position. **B** Pertuzumab heavy chain from the 1S78 PDB structure. Highlighted are the fourteen residues to be mutated, colored by the same color scheme as in [Figure 2A](#). The residues are divided into four groups based on their sequence position. **C** The number of residues selected for mutation from each group of residues for a specific library sequence. Groups 1 and 2 which contain four and six residues, respectively, had two mutations each in every library sequence, with all possible combinations of two mutations from each group. Groups 3 and 4, having two residues each, had one mutation in every library sequence. Each library sequence will have a total of six mutations.

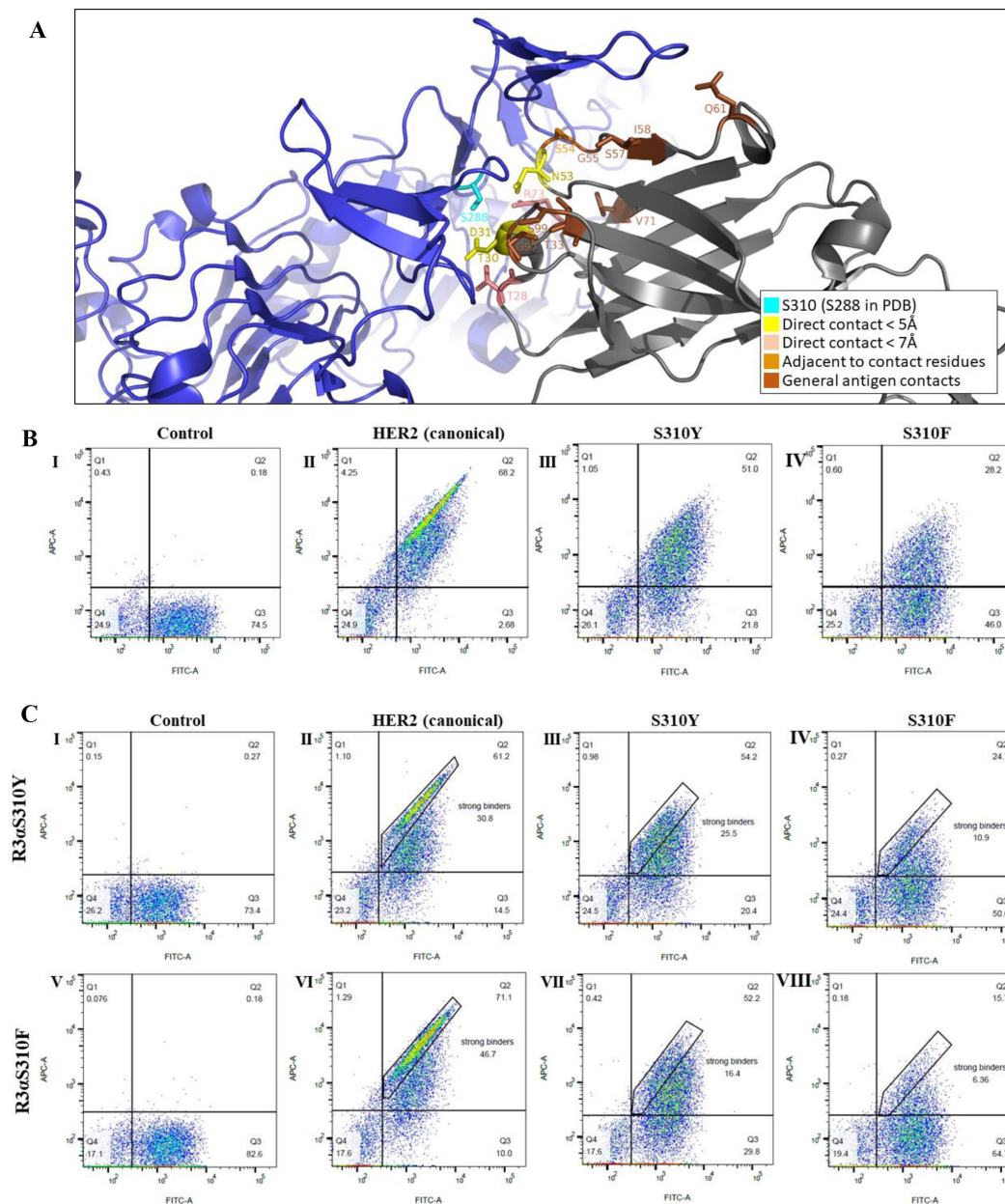


Figure 2.

A The interface between HER2 and Pertuzumab (PDB 1S78). HER2 is in blue, Pertuzumab light and heavy chains are in light and dark grey, respectively. Serine 310 (288 in the PDB numbering) is shown in cyan. All 14 residues chosen for the library are colored by the criteria that led to their selection for the library.

B FACS results of the population from the third round (R3) of selection **I** with no antigen for control, and with 200nM of each antigen: **II** canonical HER2 **III** S310Y mutant **IV** S310F mutant. The populations from the top right quadrant that represent S310Y and S310F putative binders, were collected for the next round of selection.

C FACS results for the population from the fourth round of selection (R4). Top panels describe the results of R4 where R3 was selected against the S310Y mutants; bottom panels are R4 where R3 was against the S310F mutants. **I,V** Null, negative control, where no antigen is added, **II,VI** 50nM of canonical HER2 **III,VII** 50nM of S310Y mutant **IV,VIII** 50nM of S310F mutant. Gated populations are marked in rectangles.

Stringent Library Selection Provided Stronger Binders

Colonies from the third selection round (R3) against both S310Y ([Figure 2B-IV](#)) and S310F ([Figure 2B-III](#)) mutants were taken through an additional selection round, as shown in [Figure 2C](#).

Finding Multi-specific Candidates from R4 FACS Results

A total of 90 colonies were sampled, 15 colonies from each antigen-binding population of R4 ([Figure 2C](#): II-IV, VI-VIII). The colonies were sequenced and tested against the three antigens. None of the colonies bound all three antigens. However, three colonies showed binding to two different antigens, as shown in [Figure 3A](#). These three candidate colonies were taken for further analysis as monoclones. The sequences of the 14 mutated positions from all 90 colonies are shown in [Supplementary Figure 4](#).

The sequencing analysis did not identify a single sequence that bound all three variants of the HER2. We thus used the sequencing results to try and stitch together such tri-specific sequences. We analyzed the diversity observed in each position and identified all the residues that were observed in all binders of each of the three antigens - canonical HER2, S310Y, and S310F. These residues were then combined, to compose a set of residues per position that appear in at least one binder for all three antigens, as shown in [Supplementary Table 2](#). For example, residue number 57 in Pertuzumab is Serine, but Alanine, Serine, Threonine, and Valine were found in this position in binders of all three antigens - canonical HER2, S310Y, and S310F. Subsequently, sequences composed of the residues detailed in [Supplementary Table 2](#) in the fourteen tested positions were taken for further analysis as monoclones. This resulted in two tri-specific candidate sequences, shown in [Figure 3B](#). These sequences were synthesized and inserted into yeast to assess binding.

FACS Results of Chosen Colonies Showed Multi-specific Binding

FACS analysis for yeast clones expressing each of the five chosen variants from [Figure 3A](#) and [3B](#) showed that all of them are multi-specific and detectably bind all three variants of HER2 ([Supplementary Figure 5](#)). Clone 32, however, showed weak binding to the S310F mutant; thus, we eliminated it from further analysis and took the other four clones for evaluation as IgGs.

ELISA of Five IgGs Shows Multi-specificity for all Antigens

IgGs of the four best clones were produced and tested for binding of all three antigens, as shown in [Figure 3C-E](#). Kd values were calculated and are shown in [Figure 3F](#). All antibodies bound all three variants at a single-digit nM affinity.

Engineered IgGs Have Similar T_m to Pertuzumab

IgGs 85 and 41 showed better antigen binding based on [Supplementary Figure 6](#), thus, they were chosen for further analysis. Protein stability and T_m were determined for Pertuzumab and both IgGs using a thermal shift assay. [Supplementary Figure 6A](#) shows that the unfolding rates based on temperature for the three IgGs are very similar. [Supplementary Figure 6B](#) shows the T_m values for the three IgGs. These results show that the engineered IgGs maintain the original stability of Pertuzumab.

A Cell-Based Assay Shows High HER3-Mutant HER2 Dimerization

A cell-based assay was designed to assess the functional effect of the antibodies. The assay measures signal transduction leading to HER3 phosphorylation as a result of HER2-HER3 dimerization in the presence of HRG ligand and whether a given antibody inhibits it. An initial measurement of HER3 phosphorylation is shown in [Supplementary Figure 7](#). HER3

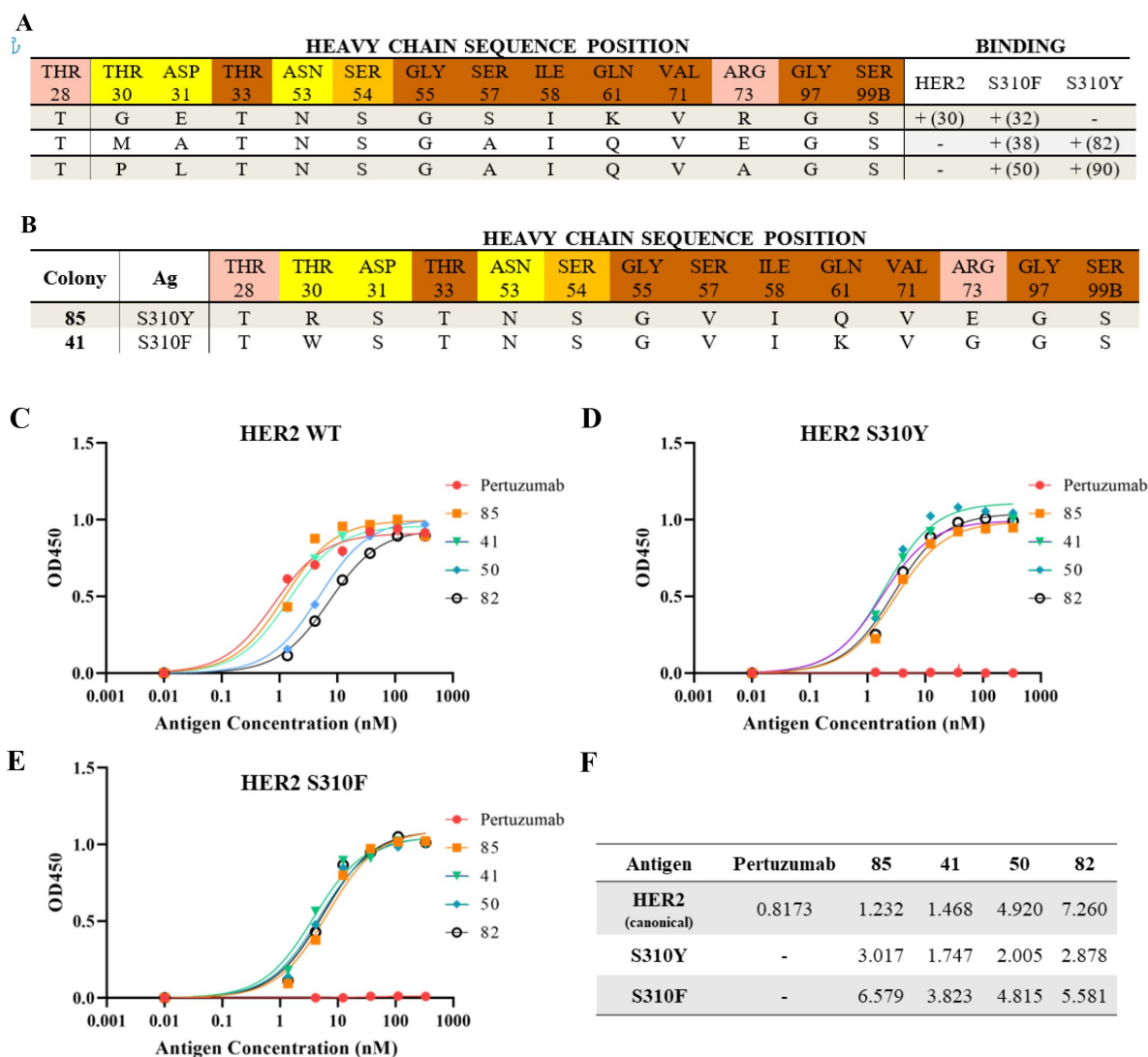


Figure 3.

A,B Positions and variations that contribute to multi-specific binding according to selection results. The first row of each Supplementary Table shows the fourteen positions from the original Pertuzumab sequence selected for variation, as shown in Figure 1A, numbered as in the PDB 1S78. Positions are colored according to the color scheme in Figure 2A: Direct contacts in yellow and peach, contact-adjacent in orange, and general antigen contacts in brown. **A** Three sequences from round 4 of selection, that were found to bind two different variants. On the right side of the table, for each sequence, the antigen it binds is specified. The colony number from which the sequence originated is in parenthesis.

B Two colonies from round 4 of selection. Each of these sequences is composed of residues that appear in binders of all three antigens: canonical HER2, S310F, and S310Y. For example, according to Supplementary Table 2, in position 58 there can only be Isoleucine or Leucine. Both sequences have Isoleucine in this position.

C,D,E ELISA results for Pertuzumab and four IgGs from the tested monoclones, against three antigens:

C canonical HER2 **D** S310Y mutant **E** S310F mutant.

F Kd values in nM for each IgG described in **Figures 3C-E**, against all antigens tested. No binding was detected for Pertuzumab and both mutants.

phosphorylation is indicative of HER2-HER3 dimerization levels. The HER2 mutant assays showed higher phosphorylated HER3 levels, implying that HER2 mutants increase HER2-HER3 dimerization levels, confirming previous findings [40 [↗](#), 42 [↗](#)].

Engineered IgGs Lower HER3 Phosphorylation

Figure 4A [↗](#) shows a schematic representation of HER2-HER3 dimerization. Pertuzumab disrupts the dimerization complex and abrogates tyrosine phosphorylation. Thus, we expected to see lower HER3 phosphorylation for canonical and mutant HER2 binders. The response was measured in the cell-based assay for antibody concentrations of 1nM and 100nM. **Figure 4B-D** [↗](#) show the effect of each tested IgG on HER3 phosphorylation in the presence of each: canonical HER2, the S310Y, or S310F. Pertuzumab did not inhibit the S310Y and S310F mutants, as expected. Engineered IgG 85 showed inhibition of canonical HER2, and partial inhibition of the S310F mutant. At 100nM, engineered IgG 41 completely eliminated HER3 phosphorylation for all HER2 variants, inhibiting canonical HER2 as well as both S310 mutants.

Discussion

Naturally occurring genomic variation can cause altered drug responses, ranging from improved binding to complete drug resistance [48 [↗](#)]. Multi-specific antibodies may offer a potential solution for variations that impair drug binding, with a single drug that binds several versions of the target with high affinity and specificity. Here, we show a computationally-aided design framework for designing multi-specific binders based on an existing binder of a single variant.

While the antibodies that emerged from our library may require additional refinements to become clinical leads, the results highlight two important facts. First: only five mutations sufficed to add new specificities to a mature antibody. This illustrates the plasticity of mature antibodies and the fact that they can often be further engineered to acquire an additional specificity. For at least two of our variants, this new specificity comes without paying a cost in the affinity to the original target. This may suggest that there is more room for improvement either in terms of improved affinity or in terms of additional specificities that could be added with more carefully selected mutations. Second, the simple computational design that focused on rationally identifying a handful of positions to alter in the antibody to accommodate the new specificities allowed for exhaustive screening of a tiny fraction of the sequence space. This, we proposed, is crucial when attempting to introduce new specificities to mature antibodies.

HER2, like many other targets, harbors point mutations that may occur somatically in cancer but are also prevalent as germline alleles in the population. In such cases, multi-specific Abs that efficiently bind multiple variants may be beneficial both by allowing efficacy on a wider initial patient population and by increasing the therapeutic index, as it blocks at least some of the tumor's escape routes from the drug. Thinking about these mutations early, before nominating a lead candidate for development, may save the effort, cost, and time of developing a new, mutant-specific version of the drug later. Resistance mutations prior to or as a result of tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) therapy have been targeted using second and even third-generation drugs, that are specific to different sets of mutations [49 [↗](#)]. However, these are small molecules that do not possess the inherent plasticity that an antibody has due to its size. The results presented here suggest that such a scenario can be preempted to a certain degree by analyzing the patient population and considering variations early.

In a wider context, approaches like the one we propose here offer a path for dealing with one of the great challenges of personalized medicine, *i.e.*, designing a single molecule that is made the same for everyone but can act on multiple different stratified populations. The drug is not personalized yet its activity may be.

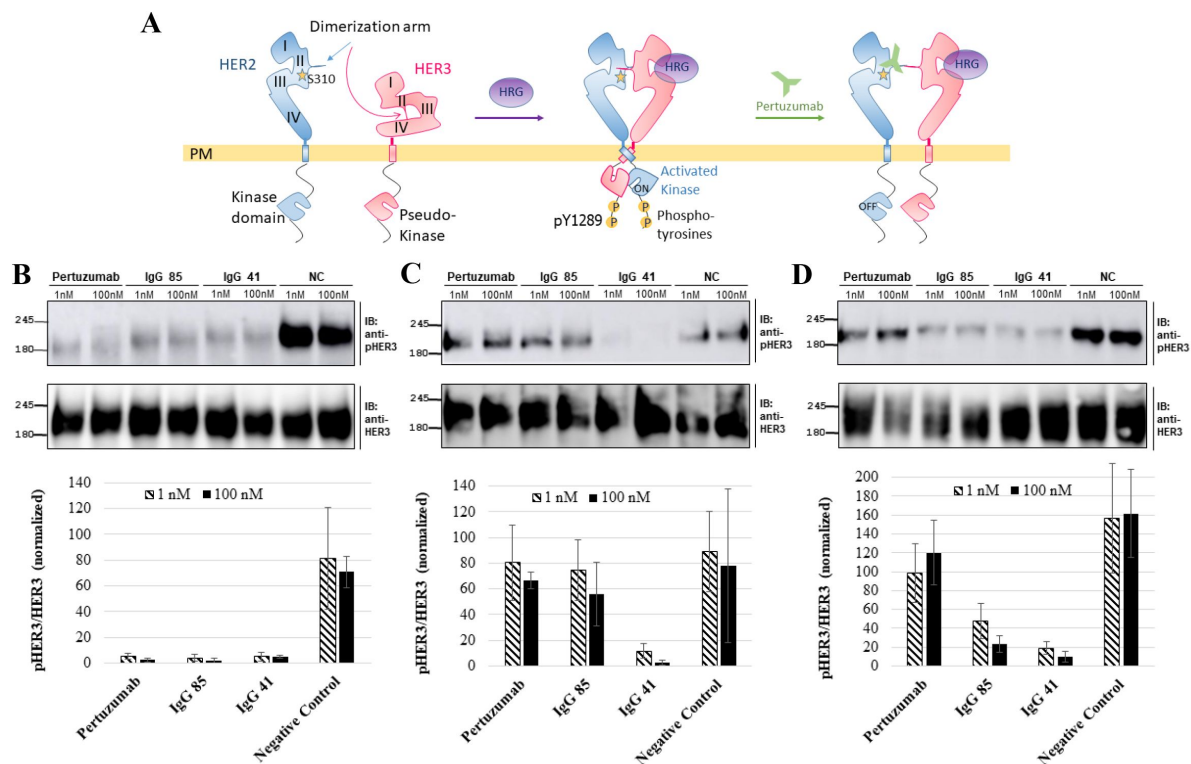


Figure 4.

A Schematic representation of HER2 and HER3. HER2 S310 is represented by a yellow star in domain II. HRG ligand (purple) promotes HER2-HER3 dimerization and trans-phosphorylation, Pertuzumab (green) disrupts the dimerization complex and abrogates tyrosine phosphorylation. **B-D** HER3 phosphorylation (pHER3) due to HER2-HER3 dimerization, in antibody concentrations of 1 and 100nM for Pertuzumab and the two engineered IgG85 and IgG41. Different HER2 variants were used for dimerization: **B** canonical HER2 **C** S310Y mutant **D** S310F mutant. Quantification is based on cross-referenced western blot intensity densitometry from the mean \pm SEM of three repeats. While phosphorylation was restored for the two HER2 S310 mutants in the presence of Pertuzumab, IgG 85 showed lower phosphorylation for S310F, and IgG 41 inhibited both HER2 mutants as well as canonical HER2.

To identify the mutations, we used previously sequenced cancer and germline samples, enabling the use of the existing wealth of data to find mutations that can affect drug binding. Whether other mutations located in drug-target interfaces disrupt drug binding still remains to be discovered. However, the approach we described here, may allow for further engineering to cover additional escape mutations, if such mutations are identified.

Materials and Methods

Mutations Dataset

Somatic cancer mutations in genes were downloaded from COSMIC[8]. The COSMIC Mutation Data (Targeted Screens and Genome Screens) dataset was chosen, Release v85, 8th May 2018. Records that lacked information *e.g.*, unknown mutation description or amino-acid data were removed.

Antibodies Dataset

Therapeutic antibodies and their solved structures were acquired from Thera-SabDab[81]. Structures that do not contain the antigen (unbound) were removed. This list was crossed with the FDA-approved antibodies list. The relevant structures were downloaded from RCSB PDB[82] (<http://www.rcsb.org/>).

Identifying Genes' Locations of the Antigens

Antigens sequences were taken from the PDB files and were aligned against the hg38 genome using BLAT[83]. Antigens that were found to be of non-human origin were removed (along with their Ab).

Obtaining Transcripts Sequences for Mutation Data

Since the residue numbering in the PDB and the mutation data are not the same, all mRNA sequences for all antigens were downloaded from GenBank[84]. From these sequences, only transcripts that contained the same numbering as the mutated data were taken (*e.g.*, if the mutation data indicated reference Leucine in position X for a specific protein, only transcripts with Leucine in that position were taken).

Aligning the Transcripts Against PDB Sequences

To find the mutated residues in the PDB file, the mRNA sequence was first aligned against the PDB SEQRES sequence using Needle[85] global alignment tool. Since the PDB ATOM data may lack some residues that were not crystallized, the PDB ATOM residues were converted into sequences and aligned against the PDB SEQRES using Needle. Using these alignments, a script was written to find the alignment between the mRNA sequences to the PDB ATOM data.

Identifying Contact Residues

All distances between the Ab and antigen atoms were calculated. An antigen atom was considered to be in contact if at least one of the Ab atoms was in a distance of less than 5Å.

Mutations Filtering

Gene names obtained from the BLAT search (with all possible name variations) were used to filter COSMIC mutation data. Then, using the alignment between the mRNA sequences and the PDB ATOM data, only mutations on the binding site were taken.

Mutated Targets Stability Prediction

The mutated target 1S78 (HER2) stability was examined using Maestro[73]. The protein structure was preprocessed (at $6.5 \leq \text{pH} \leq 7.5$) and optimized to correct possible errors. The stability and affinity for each mutation (S310F, S310Y) were calculated, examining chain B, which contains the mutation, against all the other chains. S310 is numbered S288 on the PDB structure.

Library Design

A library of sequences was designed to find an antibody that will bind both the canonical SER310 HER2 and the mutations S310Y and S310F. As only Pertuzumab heavy chain was found to be in contact with S310, its residues that are either in direct contact with SER310, adjacent to a residue that is in direct contact with S310, or in contact with HER2 and can potentially strengthen Ab-Ag binding were collected. All the bonds that these residues were involved in were calculated, as well as their evolutionary profile. Out of all collected residues, fourteen were shown to be evolutionary diverse between a hundred homologous sequences and were not involved in bonds that are likely to be essential for protein folding. In **Figure 3A**, these fourteen residues are listed with their classifications. **Figure 2A** shows these residues on the 1S78 structure. Image was generated using PyMOL[92]. Creating a library that will contain all possible residues combinations with general codons in these fourteen positions will result in a complexity of 6.23×10^{18} , which is too high for an efficient Yeast-Display experiment. To reduce complexity, the residues were divided into four groups based on their sequence position. For each library sequence, a predetermined number of mutations from each group was selected, as described in **Figure 3C**, resulting in a complexity of 3.86×10^{11} sequences. Groups 1 and 2 which contain four and six residues, respectively, had two mutations each in every library sequence. Groups 3 and 4, having two residues each, had one mutation in every library sequence.

Protein Expression and Purification of Canonical HER2 and Mutants

Constructs of human canonical HER2 and mutants were prepared by PCR amplification from the complete cDNA clone of human HER2 (Acc. No. BC156755 / P04626, Harvard deposit plasmid ID HsCD00348391). The extracellular region of HER2 (spanning residues 22-587) was amplified and ligated into a modified p3XFLAG-CMVTM-25 Expression Vector (Sigma-Aldrich, cat: E9408) containing an N-terminal FLAG tag and a C-terminal hexahistidine tag, followed by a stop codon. The HER2 mutants S310Y and S310F were generated by assembly PCR and cloned as previously described. The proteins were expressed in HEK293F expression system (Invitrogen, cat: R790-07). HEK293F cells were maintained in FreeStyleTM 293 Expression Medium (Invitrogen, cat: 12338018) in an orbital shaker incubator at 37°C, 120 rpm, 8% CO₂. For transfection, cells were seeded at 1×10^6 cells/ml in a final volume of 250ml and transfected using linear polyethylenimine (PEI) (Polysciences, Inc, Polyethylenimine HCL MAX, MW 40000, cat: 24765-1), 3µg PEI for 1µg plasmid DNA for 1×10^6 cells. Individual cultures were grown for 7 days post-transfection and then harvested at 1500xg for 20 min at 4°C. The supernatant was filtered and loaded onto a metal-chelate column (HisTrap, GE Healthcare) pre-equilibrated with buffer A (50mM phosphate buffer, pH 8, 0.4 M NaCl, 5% glycerol) at a flow rate of 2 ml/min. The column was washed with buffer A until a stable baseline was achieved. The proteins were eluted with 150mM imidazole, and the protein-containing fractions were selected for further purification by size exclusion chromatography. The proteins were loaded on Superdex200 10/300 (GE Healthcare, cat: 17-5175-01) that was previously equilibrated with PBS. The purified proteins were split into aliquots and flash-frozen in liquid N₂ for further binding assays.

Library Generation

The Pertuzumab sequence was collected from PDB 1S78 [86]. The predicted scFv sequence was obtained from IGMT/DomainGapAlign [87, 88] and synthesized by Bio-Basic Custom Gene Synthesis. The 1S78 scFv library was constructed based on the AAL160 template antibody by overlapping extension PCR with degenerate oligonucleotides. PCR used to introduce diversity with

NNS codons was done using Phusion high fidelity DNA polymerase (New England Biolabs USA, cat: M0530) according to manufacturer instructions in a 3-step reaction (98°C for 30 sec, 65°C for 20 sec, 72°C for 30 sec, 30 cycles). Subsequently, the DNA fragments were gel-purified and assembled in equimolar ratios in a 3-step PCR reaction, as detailed above, but in the absence of primers. The assembled scFv library was amplified using forward and reverse primers adding the yeast surface display (YSD) expression vector homology recombination sequences at the 5' and 3' to the scFv library allowing efficient homology recombination into EBY100 yeast strain. scFv libraries were constructed with three repeats of flexible linkers of G4S between the VH and VL. The scFv library and linearized pCTCON2 plasmid [89] were co-transformed to *S. cerevisiae* strain EBY100 using lithium acetate [90]. Transformed cells were selected on SDCAA plates.

Library Selection Against Canonical HER2 and the Two Mutants

Magnetic Activated Cell Sorting (MACS)

Selection for binders was done essentially as described by [91]. Briefly, a culture of EBY100 cells transformed with scFv library was induced to expression by transferring to galactose-containing media (SDGAA) and incubated for 48 hours at 20°C with shaking of 200 rpm. As a first strategy for enriching the suspensions with HER2 binders, MACS was performed. In the first round, 5×10^{10} yeast cells displaying scFv were collected, washed, and incubated with 100nM canonical HER2, purified as described above. After three MACS buffer washes, the antigen-binding cells were labeled with anti-Human Flag-biotin (Miltenyi Biotec cat 130-101-569) and streptavidin microbeads (Miltenyi Biotec, cat: 130-048-101) consequently. The magnetic separation of the cells was performed using an LS-column (Miltenyi Biotec, cat: 130-042-401) that was placed in a VarioMACS separator (Miltenyi Biotec Inc., Auburn, CA, USA), as described by the manufacturer's protocol. The positively selected cells were collected and grown in SDCAA medium at 30°C for an additional MACS round, with 200nM HER2 S310Y. The MACS procedures resulted in a library variation of 1×10^7 cells that were then subjected to FACS.

Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting (FACS)

FACS was performed with FACSria III sorter (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) as follows: 8×10^7 yeast cells (in the first round, 2×10^6 in further rounds) displaying scFv were labeled with mouse monoclonal Anti-c-myc-FITC IgG (Miltenyi Biotec cat 130-116-485) and incubated with Flag-tagged canonical HER2 and the previously purified mutant proteins at room temperature for 2 hours, followed by incubation with a mouse anti-Flag IgG [5A8E5], conjugated with iFluor 647 (cat: A01811-100, Genscript). Yeast clones exhibiting higher iFluor 647 fluorescence signal relative to FITC fluorescence were screened using a FACSria III sorter (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA), and the collected cells were pooled down to SDCAA medium for the next round of FACS screening. The library resulted from the last round was plated onto SDCAA plates and individual colonies were picked for DNA sequencing. The complete selection scheme can be seen in **Supplementary Figure 3** [↗](#).

Protein Expression and Purification of IgGs

The 1S78 and mutant DNA templates were collected from the selected colonies of the scFv library. The light chain (LC) and the heavy chain (HC) were amplified and cloned into pSF-kappa light and pSF-heavy plasmids, respectively, by using Golden-gate protocol. The 1S78 IgGs were expressed in HEK293F expression system (Invitrogen, cat: R790-07), as described previously. For proper IgG folding and assembly, the co-transfection ratio was 1:1 LC/HC. The culture was grown for 6 days post-transfection and then harvested at 1500xg for 20 min at 4°C. The clear supernatant was dialyzed against 2L of phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.4, and then loaded on a protein A column (Monofinity A resin, GenScript, cat: L00433). The elution was performed with 0.1M glycine-HCl pH 3 and directly neutralized with a 10% volume of 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8.5. One of the eluted

protein fractions was loaded on Superdex200 10/300 (GE Healthcare, cat: 17-5175-01) that was previously equilibrated with PBS. The purified protein was flash-frozen in liquid N₂ for further assays.

Elisa

For ELISA, Microton, High binding flat-bottomed 96-well plates were coated with 500 ng of either 1S78 IgG WT or mutants in 50mM bicarbonate buffer pH=9.6 (50 μ L per well) and incubated overnight at 4°C. After three washes with PBS, plates were blocked (PBS + 3% milk) for 2 hours at RT with gentle shaking. The antigens (canonical HER2, S310Y, and S310F) were prepared at 1 μ M in a blocking buffer and transferred to the corresponding rows in duplicate. Plates were incubated for 60 min at RT with gentle shaking and washed subsequently. Plates were incubated with 50 μ L/well of anti-Flag HRP (1:4000 diluted in blocking buffer) for 60 min at RT. A final wash step was performed and plates were developed using TMB reagent (SouthernBiotech™) and 0.1M HCl stop solution. The optical density (OD) at 450nm was read on the Infinite 200 Pro multimode plate reader (Tecan Group Ltd., Switzerland).

Thermal Shift Assay for Protein Stability Measurement

All measurements were performed on a CFX96 Real-Time System (C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler, Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). Each reaction was at a final volume of 25 μ L, containing 5 μ L of SYPRO Orange 100x (Sigma-Aldrich, cat: S5692) and protein at a final concentration of 1 μ M in PBS. All compounds were mixed on ice in an 8-well PCR tube. Fluorescence was measured from 4°C to 80°C with 0.5°C/10 sec steps in duplicates for each protein. The fluorescent signals that were obtained from the Texas Red channel were analyzed as follows: The replicates were normalized to a two-state model by a transition to percent values and then fitted for T_m calculation.

Cell Lines

HEK293F cells (Thermo Fisher Scientific) are maintained in a FreeStyle™ 293 expression medium (Invitrogen, cat: 12338018) in suspension or adherent culture at 37°C, 8% CO₂. COS-7 (ATCC) adherent cells are maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 2 mM l-glutamine, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 mg/ml streptomycin, at 37°C, under 5% CO₂.

Cell-based Assay

Full-length HER2 (canonical, S310Y, and S310F) and full-length HER3 constructs were prepared by PCR amplification from the complete human cDNA clones (Acc. No. BC156755 and Acc. No. NG_011529, respectively). The genes were amplified and ligated into a modified p3XFLAG-CMV™-25 Expression Vector (Sigma-Aldrich, cat: E9408) containing a C-terminal hexahistidine tag for all, and an N-terminal FLAG tag for HER2 clones only. The mutagenesis was performed as previously described.

For transfection, COS7 cells were seeded at 1.5×10^5 cells per well in a 6-well plate, cultured for 24h, and transiently transfected with 5 μ g DNA using linear polyethyleneimine (PEI) (Polysciences, Inc, Polyethylenimine HCL MAX, MW 40000, cat: 24765-1), 15 μ L PEI for 5 μ g plasmid DNA per well. Transfected cells were incubated at 37°C, 5% CO₂ for 8h. The medium was then changed to a serum-free medium for starvation. Pertuzumab IgG, Negative control IgG, and our engineered 41 and 85 IgGs were added at several concentrations for 16h. The cells were then stimulated with 10nM NRG1 β (PeproTech, cat: 100-03) for 10 min at 37 °C, cooled on ice for 5 min, washed two times in ice-cold PBS, and lysed in 400 μ L SIMA buffer (120mM NaCl, 25mM HEPES, 1% Triton, 10% glycerol, 1 mM EGTA, 0.75mM MgCl₂, Roche Complete protease inhibitors, 1mM sodium orthovanadate, 2 mM sodium fluoride, pH 7.4) per 6-well on ice for 30 min. Lysates were transferred into 1.5ml microcentrifuge tubes, spun at 15,000g for 15 min, and supernatants were transferred into fresh tubes with SDS loading dye. Phospho-HER3 (pY1289) and HER3 levels in

lysates were determined by western blot. Antibodies used for detection were rabbit anti-HER3 (Cell Signaling, D22C5, 1:1,000), rabbit anti-phospho-HER3 recognizing phosphorylated tyrosine position Y1289 (Cell Signaling, 21D3, 1:1,000) and anti-rabbit IgG HRP-linked antibody (Cell Signaling, cat: 7074, 1:10,000). Protein visualization by chemiluminescence and quantification was performed using AmershamTM Imager 600 (GE Healthcare).

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Author contributions

Y.O. conceived the study. Y.O., S.P., J.G.H., G.N., S.F., and Y.F. designed the experiments. S.P., J.G.H., and N.Z.B. performed the experiments. Y.O., S.P., and J.G.H. analyzed the results and wrote the paper.

Competing interests

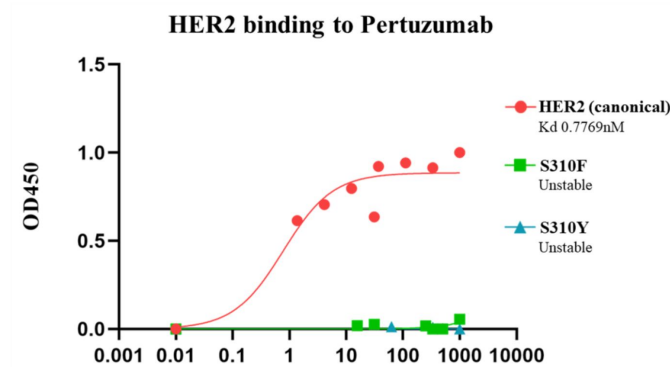
The Bioojic Design authors are employees of Bioojic Design and have stock options in Bioojic Design.

Supplementary Figures

A

Residue	Original	Mutated	Number of samples in COSMIC	ΔG Affinity (Kcal/mol)	Δ Stability (solvated) (Kcal/mol)
B:288	SER	PHE	172	3.48	14.27
B:288	SER	TYR	54	2.62	14.09

B



Supplementary Figure 1.

A Mutation analysis results from Maestro. Each line shows a different mutation, with the number of samples in COSMIC containing the mutation, predicted changes in Ab-Ag affinity and Ag stability between the original and mutated states. ΔG Affinity of the S288 mutations is close to or bigger than 3 Kcal/mol, suggesting that they might disrupt HER2 binding by Pertuzumab. S288 in the PDB structure numbering corresponds to S310 in the sequence numbering. B ELISA results for Pertuzumab binding to canonical HER2 and the two HER2 mutants, with Kd values. Both S310 mutations abrogated HER2 binding to Pertuzumab.

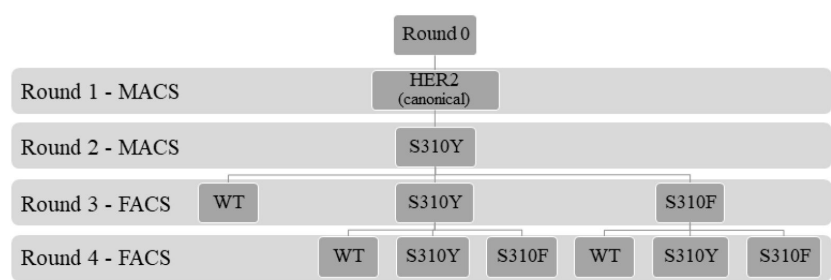
1S78_B	1	-----TQVCTGTMKLRLPASPETHLDMRLHLY	28
P04626	1	MELAALCRWGLLLALLPPGAASTQVCTGTMKLRLPASPETHLDMRLHLY	50
1S78_B	29	QGCQVVQGNLELTYPNASLSFLQDIQEVQGYVLIAHNQVRQVPLQRLR	78
P04626	51	QGCQVVQGNLELTYPNASLSFLQDIQEVQGYVLIAHNQVRQVPLQRLR	100
1S78_B	79	IVRGTLQFEDNYALAVLDNGDPL-----SPGGIRELQLRSLTEILK	119
P04626	101	IVRGTLQFEDNYALAVLDNGDPLNNTTPTVTGASPGGIRELQLRSLTEILK	150
1S78_B	120	GGVLIQRNPQLCYQDTILWKDIFHKNNQLALTIDTNRSRACHPCSPMCK	169
P04626	151	GGVLIQRNPQLCYQDTILWKDIFHKNNQLALTIDTNRSRACHPCSPMCK	200
1S78_B	170	GSRCWGESSEDCQSLTRTVCAGGCARCKGPLPTDCCHEQCAAGCTGPKHS	219
P04626	201	GSRCWGESSEDCQSLTRTVCAGGCARCKGPLPTDCCHEQCAAGCTGPKHS	250
1S78_B	220	DCLACLHFNHSGICELHCPALVTYNTDTFESMPNPEGRTYFGASCVTACP	269
P04626	251	DCLACLHFNHSGICELHCPALVTYNTDTFESMPNPEGRTYFGASCVTACP	300
1S78_B	270	YNYLSTDVGSCTLVCPHNEVTAEDGTQRCEKCSKPCARVCYGLGMEHL	319
P04626	301	YNYLSTDVGSCTLVCPHNEVTAEDGTQRCEKCSKPCARVCYGLGMEHL	350
1S78_B	320	REVRAVTSANIQEFAGCKKIFGSLAFLPESFDGDPASNTAPLQPEQLQVF	369
P04626	351	REVRAVTSANIQEFAGCKKIFGSLAFLPESFDGDPASNTAPLQPEQLQVF	400
1S78_B	370	ETLEEITGYLYISAWPDSLPLSVFQNLQVIRGRILHNGAYSLTLQGLGI	419
P04626	401	ETLEEITGYLYISAWPDSLPLSVFQNLQVIRGRILHNGAYSLTLQGLGI	450
1S78_B	420	SWLGLRSLRELGSGLALIHNNTHLCFVHTVPWDQLFRNPHQALLHTANRP	469
P04626	451	SWLGLRSLRELGSGLALIHNNTHLCFVHTVPWDQLFRNPHQALLHTANRP	500
1S78_B	470	EDECVGEGLACHQLCARGHCWGPQTQCVNCSQFLRGQECVEECRVLQGL	519
P04626	501	EDECVGEGLACHQLCARGHCWGPQTQCVNCSQFLRGQECVEECRVLQGL	550
1S78_B	520	PREYVNARHCLPCHPECQPQNGSVTCFGPEADQCACAHYKDPPFCVAR-	568
P04626	551	PREYVNARHCLPCHPECQPQNGSVTCFGPEADQCACAHYKDPPFCVARC	600
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	601	PSGVKPDLSYMPIWKFPDEEGACQPCPINCTHSCVDLDDKGCPAEQRAS	650
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	651	LTSIIISAVVGILLVVVLGVVFGILIKRRQKIRKYTMRRLLQETELVEPL	700
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	701	TPSGAMPNQAQMRILKETELRKVKVLGSGAFGTVYKGIWIPDGENVKIPV	750
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	751	AIKVLRENTSPKANKEILDEAYVMAGVGSFYVSRLLGICLTSTVQLVTQL	800
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	801	MPYGCLLDHVRENRRGLGSQDLLNWCMIAGKMSYLEDVRLVHRDLAARN	850

Supplementary Figure 2.

Alignment of canonical human HER2 sequence from UniProt (P04626) and the crystalized residues of HER2 from PDB 1S78, chain B. Alignment was done using EMBOSS Needle. S310 from the original sequence / S288 from the 1S78 can be seen on the seventh block of the alignment and are highlighted in yellow.

1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	851	VLVKSPNHVKITDFGLARLLDIDETEHADGGKVPIKWMALESILRRRFT	900
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	901	HQSDVWSYGVTVWELMTFGAKPYDGIPAREIPDLLEKGERLPQPPICTID	950
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	951	VYIMVVKCWMIDSECRPRFRELVSEFSRMARDPQRFVVIQNEDLGPASPL	1000
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	1001	DSTFYRSLLEDDDMGDLVDAEEYLVPQQGFFCPDPAPGAGGMVHHRSS	1050
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	1051	STRSGGDLTLGLEPSEEEAPRSPAPSEGAGSDVFDGDLGMAAKGLQS	1100
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	1101	LPTHDPSPQLQRYSEDPTVPLPSETDGYVAPLTCSPQPEYVNQPDVRPQPP	1150
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	1151	SPREGPLPAARPAGATLERPKTILSPGKNGVVKDVFAFGGAVENPEYLTPQ	1200
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	1201	GGAAPQPHPPPAFSPAFDNLYYWDQDPPERGAPPSTFKGTPTAENPEYLG	1250
1S78_B	569	-----	568
P04626	1251	LDVPV	1255

Supplementary Figure 2. (continued)



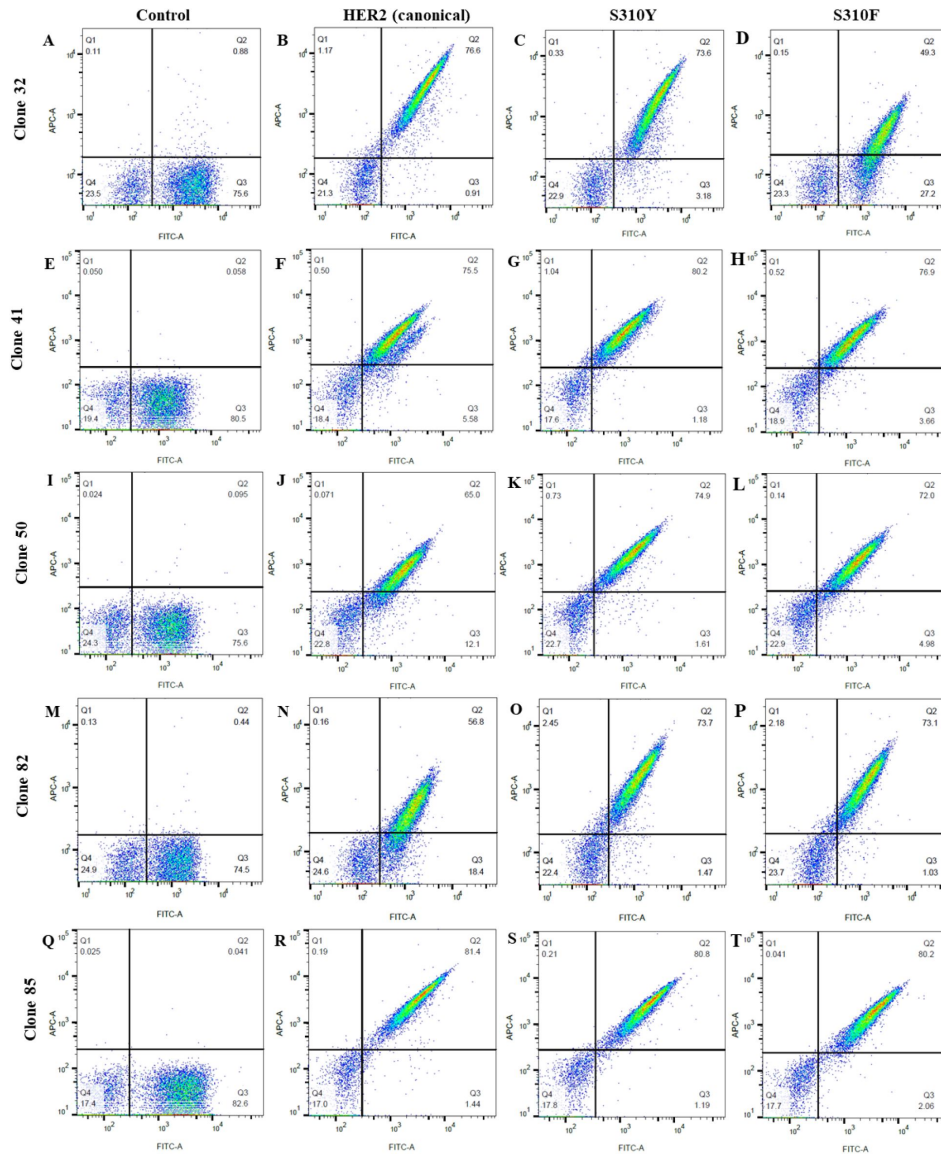
Supplementary Figure 3.

Selections scheme. Two rounds of MACS, one against canonical HER2 and one against the S310Y mutant reduced the size of the initial library. A round of FACS (round 3) was used to gate putative binders that were taken into the fourth and final round of selection, yielding putative binders that were sequenced.

>1	>31	>62
TQDQNSGSIQVAGS	TGLTNSGTIQVPGL	TRSTNSGAIQVNGF
>2	>32	>63
TQDQNSGSIQVAGW	TGETNSGSIKVRGW	TRLTNSGAIQVEGN
>3	>33	>64
TEDTNSGSIQVAGW	TGLTNSGVIQVSGN	TLSTNSGVIQVNGS
>4	>34	>65
SNDTNSGAIQVAGW	TLSTNSGVIQVVG	TGLTNSGVIQVNGK
>5	>35	>66
SQDTNSGVIQVVG	TGLTNSGCIQVAGS	TGLTNSGAIQARGS
>6	>36	>67
SPDTNSGTIQVSGS	TQDTNSGVIQVPGW	TGLTNSGGIRVRGS
>7	>37	>68
SQDTNSGSIHVAGL	TLSTNSGVVQVEGL	TGLTNSGSIQVRGW
>8	>38	>69
SQDTNSGMIQVEGS	TMATNSGAIQVEGL	TRATNSGAIKVEGN
>9	>39	>70
NWDTNSGIIQVGG	TGLTNSGAIQVTGW	TQMTNSGVIQVPGS
>10	>40	>71
QRDTNSGSIQVSGS	TGLTNSGAIQVWGL	TGLTNSGAIQVWGN
>11	>41	>72
SMDTNSGSLAVEGL	TWSTNSGVIQVGG	TGLTNSGVIQVRGS
>12	>42	>73
TQDTNSGSIQVAGW	TPLTNSGVIQVAGS	TGLTNSGSIQVRGW
>13	>43	>74
SPDTNSGVIQVRGY	TGLTNSGTIQVEGW	TGLTNSGAINVSGS
>14	>44	>75
SQDTNSGGIRVSGS	TSSTNSGVIQVRGW	TGLTNSGTQVAGW
>15	>45	>76
TQDTNSGLIRVLGS	TLATNSGVIQVEGH	TPLTNSGVIQVGG
>16	>46	>77
GQDTNSGSIQVAGS	TGLTNSGTIRSRGM	TGLTNSGAIQSRGS
>17	>47	>78
ETSTNSGVIQVPGS	TRATNSGTIEVEGS	TWATNSGVIQVGG
>18	>48	>79
TQDTNSGSIQVRGW	TGLTNSGAIQVNGS	TRSTNSGVIQVEGF
>19	>49	>80
SHDTNSGSIQVPGS	TRSTNSGSIQVEGL	TGLTNSGAIQVGG
>20	>50	>81
SPDTNSGSIQVRGS	TPLTNSGAIQVAGS	TGLTNSGVIQVRGS
>21	>51	>82
SQDTNSGSIQVEGM	TWDTNSGVIQVGG	TMATNSGAIQVEGL
>22	>52	>83
GQDTNSGSIQVEGS	TQSTNSGAINVEGF	TLATNSGVIQVPGM
>23	>53	>84
TLDTNSGVIQVEGS	TGLTNSGVIQVAGS	TQLTNSGTIRVEGS
>24	>54	>85
GQDTNSGSIQVEGS	TPLTNSGSIQVAGN	TRSTNSGVIQVEGS
>25	>55	>86
SFDTNSGVIQVPGN	TNSTNSGVIQVAGS	TRATNSGSIQVEGL
>26	>56	>87
GQDTNSGVIQVRGW	TRATNSGAIQVEGW	TGLTNSGVIQVRGS
>27	>57	>88
EQDTNSGVIQVGGW	TRATNSGVIQVEGS	TPLTNSGVIQVRGS
>28	>58	>89
TRDTNSGAIQVEGW	TDLTNSGVIQVRGS	TGLTNSGVIQVTGM
>29	>59	>90
GQDTNSGVIQVPGS	TRSTNSGTIQVNGS	TPLTNSGAIQVAGS
>30	>60	
TGETNSGSIKVRGW	>61	
	TQATNSGAIQVEGS	

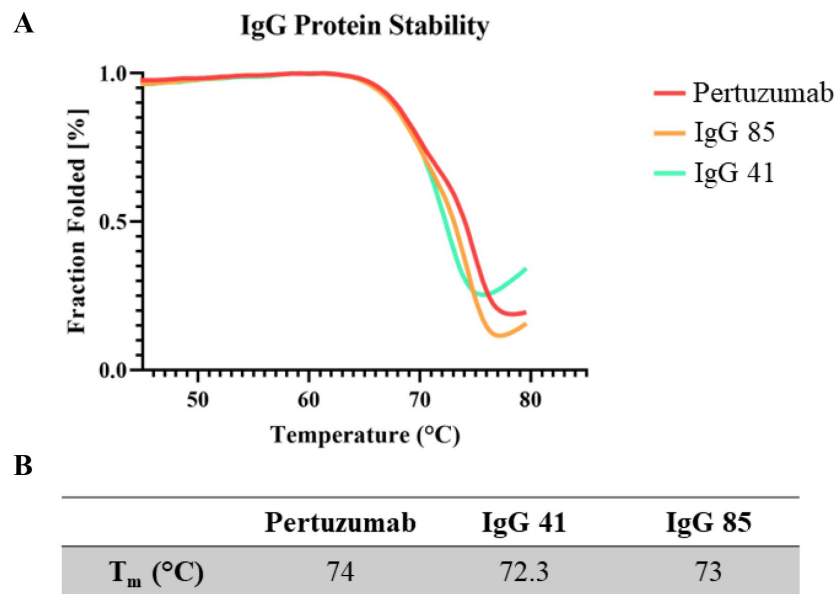
Supplementary Figure 4.

The 14 positions that were mutated (see Table 4), from the sequences of the 90 colonies from the fourth round of selection (R4). Colonies 1-30 were taken from the canonical HER2 binding population (**Figure 2C-II,VI**), colonies 31-60 were taken from S310Y HER2 binding population (**Figure 2C-III,VII**) and colonies 61-90 were taken from S310F HER2 binding population (**Figure 2C-IV,VIII**).



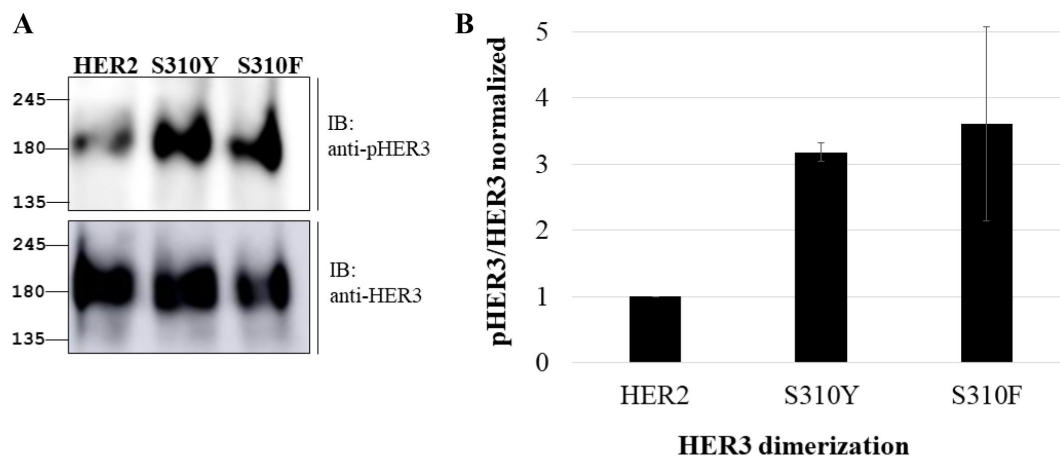
Supplementary Figure 5.

FACS results for all five clones tested for multi-specificity. Each row shows the results of each clone: A-D clone 32 E-H clone 41 I-L clone 50 M-P clone 82 Q-T clone 85. First column shows control-with no antigen, second to fourth columns are FACS results against canonical HER2, S310Y and S310F mutants, respectively.



Supplementary Figure 6.

Thermal shift assay results. A Unfolding rates based on temperature. B T_m values for each IgG. The two engineered IgGs are highly stable and show similar thermal-induced unfolding patterns and T_m s to canonical Pertuzumab.



Supplementary Figure 7.

HER3 phosphorylation (pHER3) caused by HER2-HER3 dimerization, with each of the HER2 variants: canonical HER2, S310Y mutant, and S310F mutant. A Western blots. Top photo: phosphorylated HER3. Bottom photo: HER3. B Quantification, based on cross-referenced western blot intensity densitometry from the mean \pm SEM of three repeats. HER2 mutants show higher HER3 phosphorylation, indicating an increase in HER2-HER3 dimerization.

Supplementary Tables

Step	Number Of Mutations
COSMIC Mutation Data	37,433,225
Mutations in therapeutic abs targets	220,029
Unique Mutations	13,561
In contact sites	740
In FDA approved for cancer	124
Substitution- missense mutations	102

Supplementary Table 1.

The number of COSMIC mutations after every filtration step, starting from the initial number of mutations with repetitions for different samples.

Position	Potential Residues						
THR28	T						
THR30	G	M	L	Q	P	R	W
ASP31	S						
THR33	T						
ASN53	N						
SER54	S						
GLY55	G						
SER57	A	S	T	V			
ILE58	I	L					
GLN61	K	Q	P	R			
VAL71	V						
ARG73	A	E	G	P	S	R	
GLY97	G						
SER99B	M	L	N	S	W		

Supplementary Table 2.

The fourteen chosen residues from Figure 1A. For each position, residues that are present in binders of all three antigens (canonical HER2, S310Y, and S310F), are listed.

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Reviewer #1 (Public Review):

Summary:

Starting from an unbiased search for somatic mutations (from COSMIC) likely disrupting binding of clinically approved antibodies the authors focus on mutations known to disrupt binding between two ERBB2 mutations and Pertuzamab. They use a combined computational and experimental strategy to nominate a position that when mutated could result in restoring

the therapeutic activity of the antibody. Using in vitro assays the authors confirm that the engineered antibody binds to the mutant ERBB2 and prevents ERBB3 phosphorylation

Strengths:

1. In my assessment, the data sufficiently demonstrates that a modified version of Pertuzumab can bind both the wild-type and S310 mutant forms of ERBB2.
2. The engineering strategy employed is rational and effectively combines computational and experimental techniques.
3. Given the clinical activity of HER2-targeting ADCs, antibodies unaffected by ERBB2 mutations would be desired.

Weaknesses:

1. There is no data showing that the engineered antibody is equally specific as Pertuzumab i.e. that it does not bind to other (non-ERBB2) proteins.
2. There is no data showing that the engineered antibody has the desired pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics properties or efficacy in vivo.
3. Computational approaches are only used to design a phage-screen library, but not used to prioritize mutations that are likely to improve binding (e.g. based on predicted impact on the stability of the interaction). A demonstration of how computational pre-screening or lead optimization can improve the time-intensive process would be a welcome advance.

Context:

The conflict of interest statement is inadequate. Most authors of the study (but not the first author) are employees of Biologics, a company developing multi-specific antibodies, but the statements do not clarify whether the presented antibodies represent Biologics IP, whether the company sponsored the research, and whether the company is further developing the specific antibodies presented.

- <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.89814.1.sa1>

Reviewer #2 (Public Review):

Summary:

Peled et al identified HER2 mutations in connection with resistance to the anti-HER2 antibody Pertuzumab-mediated therapy. After constructing a yeast display library of Pertuzumab variants with 3.86×10^{11} sequences for targeted screening of variant combinations in chosen 6 out of 14 residues, the authors performed experimental screening to obtain the clones that bind to HER2 WT and/or mutants (S310Y and S310F), and then combined new variations to obtain antibodies with a broad spectrum binding to both WT and two HER2 mutants. These are interesting studies of clinical impact and translational potential.

Strengths:

1. Deep computational analyses of large datasets of clinical data provide useful information about HER2 mutations and their potential relevance to antibody therapy resistance.
2. There is valuable information analyzing the residues within or near the interface between the antigen HER2 and the Pertuzumab antibody (heavy chain). The experimental antibody library screening obtained 90+ clones from 3.86×10^{11} sequences for further functional validation.

Weaknesses:

1. There is a lack of assessment for antibody variant functions in cancer cell phenotypes in vitro (proliferation, cell death, motility) or in vivo (tumor growth and animal survival). The

only assay was the western blotting of phosphopho-HER3 in Figure 4. However, HER2 levels and phosphor-HER2 were not analyzed.

2. There is a misleading impression from the title of computational engineering of a therapeutic antibody and the statement in the abstract "we designed a multi-specific version of Pertuzumab that retains original function while also bindings these HER2 variants" for a few reasons:

- a. The primary method used for variant antibody identification for HER2 mutant binding is rather traditional experimental screening based on yeast display instead of the computational design of a multi-specific version of Pertuzumab.
- b. There is insufficient or lack of computational power in the antibody design or prioritization in choosing variant residues for the library construction of 3.86×10^{11} sequences. It seems random combinations from 6 residues out of 4 groups with 20 amino acid options.
- c. The final version of the tri-binding variant is a combination of screened antibody clones instead of computation design from scratch.
- d. There is incomplete experimental evidence about the therapeutic values of newly obtained antibody clones.

3. Figures can be improved with better labeling and organization. Some essential pieces of data such as Supplementary Figure 1B on HER2 mutations in S310 that abrogated its binding to Pertuzumab should be placed in the main figures.

4. It is recommended to provide a clear rationale or flowchart overview into the main Figure 1. Figure 2A can be combined with Figure 1 to the list of targeted residues.

5. The quality of Figures such as Figure 2B-C flow data needs to be improved.

- <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.89814.1.sa0>

Author Response

Reviewer #1 (Public Review):

Strengths:

1. *In my assessment, the data sufficiently demonstrates that a modified version of Pertuzumab can bind both the wild-type and S310 mutant forms of ERBB2.*

1. *The engineering strategy employed is rational and effectively combines computational and experimental techniques.*

1. *Given the clinical activity of HER2-targeting ADCs, antibodies unaffected by ERBB2 mutations would be desired.*

Weaknesses:

1. *There is no data showing that the engineered antibody is equally specific as Pertuzumab i.e. that it does not bind to other (non-ERBB2) proteins.*

Showing the specificity of the engineered antibodies is indeed important. We did not address it in the current ms, but it can be tested in the future.

1. *There is no data showing that the engineered antibody has the desired pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics properties or efficacy in vivo.*

In this ms we did not conduct in-vivo experiments. When moving forward, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics properties and efficacy will be tested as well.

1. *Computational approaches are only used to design a phage-screen library, but not used to prioritize mutations that are likely to improve binding (e.g. based on predicted impact on the stability of the interaction). A demonstration of how computational pre-screening or lead optimization can improve the time-intensive process would be a welcome advance.*

Thank you for this important comment. In the present ms we indeed used a computational approach for prioritizing residues to be mutated, but we did not prioritize the mutations that are likely to improve binding. In the initial library design, we did prioritize the mutations. However, due to experimental approach limitations with codon's selection for the library, we had decided to allow all possible residues in each position, knowing that the selection will remove non-binding variants.

Context:

The conflict of interest statement is inadequate. Most authors of the study (but not the first author) are employees of Biologic, a company developing multi-specific antibodies, but the statements do not clarify whether the presented antibodies represent Biologic IP, whether the company sponsored the research, and whether the company is further developing the specific antibodies presented.

The Conflict-of-Interest statement will be revised as such: The Biologic Design authors are employees of Biologic Design and have stock options in Biologic Design. The company did not sponsor the research, does not hold IP for the presented antibodies, and is not further developing the presented antibodies.

Reviewer #2 (Public Review):

Strengths:

1. *Deep computational analyses of large datasets of clinical data provide useful information about HER2 mutations and their potential relevance to antibody therapy resistance.*
1. *There is valuable information analyzing the residues within or near the interface between the antigen HER2 and the Pertuzumab antibody (heavy chain). The experimental antibody library screening obtained 90+ clones from 3.86×10^{11} sequences for further functional validation.*

Weaknesses:

1. *There is a lack of assessment for antibody variant functions in cancer cell phenotypes in vitro (proliferation, cell death, motility) or in vivo (tumor growth and animal survival). The only assay was the western blotting of phospho-HER3 in Figure 4. However, HER2 levels and phospho-HER2 were not analyzed.*

We indeed did not assess the engineered antibodies function in cancer cells. Regarding signaling assessment, previous works [1-3] also measured the signaling activation following HER2-HER3 dimerization by measuring pHER3, and we relied on them in this ms.

1. *There is a misleading impression from the title of computational engineering of a therapeutic antibody and the statement in the abstract "we designed a multi-specific version of Pertuzumab that retains original function while also bindings these HER2 variants" for a few reasons:*
 - a. *The primary method used for variant antibody identification for HER2 mutant binding is rather traditional experimental screening based on yeast display instead of the computational design of a multi-specific version of Pertuzumab.*
 - b. *There is insufficient or lack of computational power in the antibody design or prioritization in choosing variant residues for the library construction of 3.86×10^{11} sequences. It seems random combinations from 6 residues out of 4 groups with 20 amino acid options.*
 - c. *The final version of the tri-binding variant is a combination of screened antibody clones instead of computation design from scratch.*
 - d. *There is incomplete experimental evidence about the therapeutic values of newly obtained antibody clones.*

Thank you for this relevant comment. When addressing relevant residues to be mutated, the number of potential variants is enormous. The computational approach was aimed at identifying the most preferable residues, in which variation can improve binding and is not likely to harm important interactions. Although an initial smaller number of residues could be chosen, we decided to broaden our view and create a larger library, in the aim of combining the computational selection with an experimental selection. This indeed is not a computational design from scratch, but rather an intercourse between the computer and the lab, that yielded the presented results.

1. *Figures can be improved with better labeling and organization. Some essential pieces of data such as Supplementary Figure 1B on HER2 mutations in S310 that abrogated its binding to Pertuzumab should be placed in the main figures.*

Thank you for this comment, the relevant figures will be moved to the main text, and the labels will be revised.

1. *It is recommended to provide a clear rationale or flowchart overview into the main Figure 1. Figure 2A can be combined with Figure 1 to the list of targeted residues.*

Figures 1 and 2 will be divided differently, and the rationale will be detailed in the revised text.

1. *The quality of Figures such as Figure 2B-C flow data needs to be improved.*

This will be corrected in the revised text.

1. Diwanji, D., et al., Structures of the HER2-HER3-NRG1 β complex reveal a dynamic dimer interface. *Nature*, 2021. 600(7888): p. 339-343.

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