This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Attenuated bacterial strains to treat cancer	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that attenuated <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> that express melanoma antigens could be a useful dendritic cell (DC)-targeting vaccine strategy. In tumor-bearing mice, a recombinant killed but metabolically active (KBMA) strain of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> that expressed tumor-specific antigens significantly increased survival compared with that seen in mice inoculated with DCs infected <i>ex vivo</i> with the same bacterial strain ($p=0.048$). The next steps include developing KBMA strains expressing melanoma antigens and testing their safety.</p> <p>Adavaxis Inc. has an <i>L. monocytogenes</i>-based vaccine in Phase I/II testing for cervical and head and neck cancers, and Cerus Corp.'s CRS-100, an immunotherapeutic comprised of attenuated <i>L. monocytogenes</i> and a cancer antigen, is in Phase I testing to treat liver metastases.</p> <p>SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1009 Published online Nov. 13, 2008</p>	Anza Therapeutics Inc. has filed a worldwide patent application; available for licensing	<p>Skoberne, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 6, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI31350 Contact: Mojca Skoberne, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: Mojcaskoberne@yahoo.de Contact: Nina Bhardwaj, same affiliation as above e-mail: nina.Bhardwaj@nyumc.org</p>