This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Natural killer (NK) cells engineered to target tumors	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that NK cells can be engineered to attack tumor cells expressing HER2 (ERBB2). NK cells transfected with a chimeric receptor containing an antibody fragment against HER2 recognized HER2-expressing carcinoma cells <i>ex vivo</i>, whereas non-HER2-expressing cells did not. In a mouse model of ovarian cancer, HER2-directed NK cells prevented tumor growth and increased survival compared with what was seen in mock-treated controls. Next steps include clinical trials.</p> <p>Herceptin trastuzumab is marketed by Genentech Inc. and Roche to treat HER2-positive breast cancer. Tykerb lapatinib is marketed by GlaxoSmithKline plc to treat HER2-positive breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 1(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1058 Published online Dec. 4, 2008</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Kruschinski, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 11, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0804788105 Contact: Jehad Charo, Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany e-mail: j.charo@mdc-berlin.de</p>