This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Live attenuated <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> vaccine to prevent malaria infection	Genetically modified parasites could be used as live attenuated vaccines to prevent malaria. Unlike wild-type parasites, those with double knockout of <i>p52</i> and <i>p36</i> did not survive in human hepatocytes. The double-knockout parasites also did not survive in mice with humanized livers. The <i>p52</i> and <i>p36</i> genes of <i>P. falciparum</i> encode proteins necessary for the parasite to infect the liver at the pre-erythrocytic stage. Next steps include a Phase I/IIa trial of the double-knockout strain to prevent malaria. <i>SciBX</i> 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1197 Published online Aug. 6, 2009	Patent covering findings held by the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute; available for licensing pending approval by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health	VanBuskirk, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906387106 Contact: Stefan H.I. Kappe, Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: stefan.kappe@sbri.org