This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Influenza vaccine production in suspension-cultured Madin-Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK) cells	MDCK cells that grow in suspension could help increase mass production yields of influenza vaccines. Transfection of MDCK cells with <i>ST6</i> (α -N-acetyl-neuraminyl-2,3- β -galactosyl-1,3)-N-acetylgalactosaminide α -2,6-sialyltransferase 5 (<i>siat7e</i> ; <i>ST6GALNAC5</i>) produced MDCK cells that grew in suspension. The cells produced influenza B viral vaccines with antigenic potential that was equivalent to that of viral vaccines produced by the standard egg-based method. Next steps include scaling up the production process.	Patented; available for licensing	Chu, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905912106 Contact: Joseph Shiloach, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: yossi@nih.gov
	SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1391 Published online Sept. 17, 2009		