This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Polyelectrolyte-encapsulated antigens for vaccine development	Vaccines consisting of polyelectrolyte-encapsulated antigens could help boost the CD8 ⁺ T cell-dependent immune response. Delivery of a soluble antigen to dendritic cells (DCs) for antigen presentation to CD8 ⁺ T cells was made more efficient by encapsulating the antigen in polyelectrolyte capsules, which increase uptake by the DCs. In a proof-of-concept experiment, ovalbumin delivered in polyelectrolyte microcapsules to murine DCs <i>in vitro</i> triggered a CD8 ⁺ T cell response at lower doses than nonencapsulated ovalbumin. Ongoing work includes optimizing the system to deliver an undisclosed antigen <i>in vivo</i> via inhalation or subcutaneous injection.	Polyelectrolyte microcapsules patented by Capsulation Pharma AG; licensing status undisclosed	De Koker, S. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Oct. 6, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200903769 Contact: Bruno G. De Geest, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium e-mail: br.degeest@ugent.be
	SciBX 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1519 Published online Oct. 15, 2009		