This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Adoptive therapy to treat autoimmune diseases using engineered antigen-specific T _{regs}	Adoptive therapy using T _{regs} engineered to target a specific antigen could help treat autoimmune diseases. Retroviral gene transfer was used to engineer T _{regs} that expressed an antigen-specific T cell receptor (TCR). In a mouse model of antigen-induced arthritis, adoptive transfer of the engineered T _{regs} decreased joint swelling compared with that in saline-treated controls. Next steps include engineering T _{regs} that target disease-specific antigens in other autoimmune diseases and evaluating them in animal models.	Two patents issued covering genetic engineering techniques to redirect T cell activity; licensing status undisclosed	Wright, G.P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907396106 Contact: Hans Stauss, University College London, London, U.K. e-mail: h.stauss@medsch.ucl.ac.uk
SciBX 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1679 Published online Nov. 19, 2009			