This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Chemically programmable antibodies	<p>Chemically programmable antibodies may provide a versatile vaccination platform for a variety of diseases. Immunization with a diketone hapten vaccine elicited diketone-specific antibodies, which in turn could covalently attach to adaptors carrying a diketone tag and a disease target-specific binder. The resulting antibodies were thus programmed to neutralize the corresponding disease agent. In proof-of-concept experiments, mouse models of colon cancer and melanoma were inoculated with the diketone hapten vaccine. Weeks later, an injection of an adaptor that targeted tumor-specific integrins resulted in a >75% decrease in tumor volume compared with that seen in controls. Next steps should include exploring whether these programmable antibodies can be targeted against pathogens such as HIV, malaria and influenza virus.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.427 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Patented; licensed to Pfizer Inc.	<p>Popkov, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900147106 Contact: Carlos F. Barbas III, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: carlos@scripps.edu</p>