This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Vaccine-coated microneedle arrays	<p>A study in mice suggests that microneedle arrays could be used to painlessly deliver vaccines. Inactivated influenza vaccine was coated onto an array of five microneedles. Intradermal microneedle-based delivery of the vaccine led to 100% survival for mice given a lethal dose of influenza virus compared with 0% survival for controls receiving bovine serum albumin. Also in mice, the vaccine-coated microneedle array produced antibody titers comparable to those generated from an intramuscular injection of the same vaccine using a hypodermic needle. Next steps include refining the delivery system to decrease application time and evaluating the delivery of other vaccines with the microneedle arrays.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.852 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Microneedle arrays covered by multiple patents; several patents licensed to Apogee Technology Inc.	<p>Zhu, Q. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812652106 Contact: Richard Compans, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: compans@microbio.emory.edu</p>