This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Generating antigen-specific antibodies through analysis of the variable-gene repertoire of plasma cells	<p>Analysis of the variable-gene repertoire of plasma cells could be useful for generating therapeutic antibodies. In mice immunized with an antigen of interest, high throughput DNA sequencing analyzed mRNA transcripts from antibody-producing bone marrow plasma cells. The most abundant variable heavy (V_H) and variable light (V_L) genes were then paired together based on their relative frequencies and expressed as fragments or full-length IgG antibodies in bacterial and mammalian cells. Antigen-binding assays showed that 78% of the antibodies were antigen specific. Next steps could include using the platform to generate and evaluate therapeutic antibodies.</p> <p>SciBX 3(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1078 Published online Sept. 9, 2010</p>	<p>Multiple patent applications filed; available for licensing from The University of Texas at Austin Office of Technology Commercialization Contact: Tom Baughman, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas e-mail: tbaughman@otc.utexas.edu</p>	<p>Reddy, S.T. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Aug. 29, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1673 Contact: George Georgiou, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas e-mail: gg@che.utexas.edu</p>