This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
IL-27 antagonistic variants	<p>Computational and biological analysis of binding sites on IL-27 could help generate IL-27 antagonists to treat inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. Researchers used site-directed mutagenesis on the IL-27 p28 subunit to identify amino acid residues important for binding site activity. In a mouse model of T helper type 1 (Th1) cell-mediated liver injury, a W197A mutant of IL-27 resulted in lower expression of two proinflammatory chemokines compared with vehicle. Next steps could include generating additional IL-27 variants with different levels of anti-inflammatory activity.</p> <p>SciBX 3(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1339 Published online Nov. 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Rousseau, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 25, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1005793107 Contact: Hugues Gascan, University Hospital of Angers, Angers, France e-mail: hugues.gascan@univ-angers.fr</p>