This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Synthetic saponin-based adjuvants with improved therapeutic profiles	<p>Studies in mice suggest that synthetic saponin-based vaccine adjuvants could have a better profile than the natural parent compound QS-21. In mice receiving a melanoma vaccine, the synthetic saponin-based adjuvant increased antibody titers to levels equal to or greater than those seen using QS-21. Mice that received the synthetic adjuvants plus the vaccine had significantly less weight loss than mice given QS-21 plus vaccine ($p \leq 0.05$), indicating reduced toxicity. Next steps could include testing the efficacy of the adjuvants in a mouse model of melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.202 Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Adams, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Jan. 20, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja9082842</p> <p>Contact: David Y. Gin, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: gind@mskcc.org</p> <p>Contact: Govind Ragupathi, same affiliation as above e-mail: ragupatg@mskcc.org</p> <p>Contact: Philip O. Livingston, same affiliation as above e-mail: livingsp@mskcc.org</p>