This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Long-term stabilization of live vaccines	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that drying live vaccines in mixtures of stabilizing sugars could be useful for long-term preservation of vaccine components without refrigeration. Live viral vector vaccines mixed with the stabilizing sugars sucrose and trehalose were dried onto polypropylene or glass fiber membranes and placed in storage. The infectivity and immunogenicity of vaccines stored in that manner were maintained for at least 6 months at temperatures of up to 45 °C. In contrast, the same vectors preserved on membranes lacking the stabilizing sugars lost their activity after 1 month of storage at 37 °C or higher. Next steps include scaling up the stabilization process and developing a syringe-based delivery device for the stabilized vaccines.</p> <p>SciBX 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.359 Published online March 18, 2010</p>	<p>Delivery device patented; separate patent filed for stabilization of viral vaccines for prophylactic and therapeutic medical products; available for licensing from Isis Innovation Ltd. Contact: Adam Stoten, Isis Innovation Ltd., Oxford, U.K. e-mail: adam.stoten@isis.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Gnjatic, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 17, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000490 Contact: Matt Cottingham, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: matt.cottingham@ndm.ox.ac.uk Contact: Christine Rollier, same affiliation as above e-mail: christine.rollier@ndm.ox.ac.uk</p>