This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Acetylated dextran-encapsulated imiquimod for vaccine adjuvants	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that dextran-based microparticle delivery of the toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist imiquimod could help improve the compound's activity as an adjuvant. In cultured macrophages and dendritic cells, encapsulated imiquimod increased cellular production of TLR7-associated immunomodulatory cytokines compared with free imiquimod or empty microparticles. Next steps include <i>in vivo</i> studies of acetylated dextran for use in vaccination protocols.</p> <p>Meda AB and Graceway Pharmaceuticals LLC market topical Aldara imiquimod for basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and genital warts.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.421 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	U.S. and international patent applications filed; available for licensing	<p>Bachelder, E. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online March 15, 2010; doi:10.1021/mp900311x</p> <p>Contact: John T. Pesce, Navy Medical Research Center, Rockville, Md. e-mail: John.Pesce@med.navy.mil</p>