This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2) ligand glycopeptide vaccines against tumor-associated mucin 1 (MUC1; CD227)	Conjugates consisting of tumor-associated MUC1 glycopeptides linked to TLR2 ligands could be useful cancer vaccines. In mice, the conjugates in combination with Freund's adjuvant induced a humoral immune response against MUC1 glycopeptides. Next steps include evaluating the immune response in cultured tumor tissue or cell lines. Stimuvax, a liposomal vaccine containing a synthetic 25-amino-acid peptide sequence from MUC1 from Oncothyreon Inc. and Merck KGaA, is in Phase III testing for breast cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). At least four other companies have compounds targeting MUC1 in Phase II or earlier for various cancers. SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.480 Published online April 15, 2010	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Kaiser, A. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online April 1, 2010; doi:10.1002/anie.201000462 Contact: Horst Kunz, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany e-mail: hokunz@uni-mainz.de