This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Self-assembling peptides for immunotherapy	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that self-assembling peptide epitopes could help increase vaccine immunogenicity. The self-assembling peptide Q11 was conjugated to the immunogenic ovalbumin peptide OVA to form peptide fibrils in phosphate buffered saline. In mice, the peptide fibrils induced similar levels of IgG1, IgG2A and IgG3 and higher levels of IgM compared with OVA peptide or complete Freund's adjuvant alone. Next steps include applying the approach to disease-related epitopes and assessing the safety of the self-assembling peptides.	Provisional U.S. patent filed for the self-assembling sequence as an immune adjuvant; available for licensing	Rudra, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 21, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912124107 Contact: Joel H. Collier, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: collier@uchicago.edu
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