This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Reprogramming T cells into NK-like cells for use in cancer immunotherapy via B-cell CLL/lymphoma 11B (BCL11B) deletion	<p>Deletion of BCL11B could help produce induced T-to-NK (ITNK) cells for cancer immunotherapy. In murine thymocyte cells, tamoxifen led to deletion of <i>Bcl11b</i> and reprogrammed T cells into ITNK cells. In three murine cancer cell lines, the resulting ITNK cells killed a subset of cancer cells that did not express major histocompatibility complex class I (MHC I) markers. In a mouse model of melanoma, the ITNK cells also reduced the number of metastatic lesions in the lung compared with unprogrammed T cells. Next steps include evaluating the ability of the ITNK cells to kill other cancer cell types.</p> <p>Tamoxifen is a generic estrogen receptor antagonist marketed to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.749 Published online June 17, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute technology transfer division	<p>Li, P. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online June 11, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1188063</p> <p>Contact: Pentao Liu, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: pl2@sanger.ac.uk</p>