This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Lowering lipid levels to improve cancer vaccines	A study in human cells and mice suggests that therapies that lower triglyceride levels in dendritic cells (DCs) could be useful adjuvants for cancer vaccines. DCs from cancer patients had higher lipid levels than DCs from healthy individuals. DCs from tumor-bearing mice had higher levels of triglycerides and were less able to stimulate T cell proliferation <i>in vitro</i> than DCs from healthy controls. Also in mice, an inhibitor of triglyceride synthesis led to lower DC lipid levels, greater DC-stimulated T cell proliferation and smaller tumor size than vehicle control after vaccination with tumor antigen. Next steps include testing the effects of other triglyceride-lowering compounds as cancer vaccine adjuvants in mice. Dendreon Corp.'s Provenge sipuleucel-T autologous cellular immunotherapy is marketed to treat hormone refractory prostate cancer. At least seven other companies have DC-directed cancer vaccines in Phase I and preclinical development. SciBX 3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.909 Published online July 29, 2010	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Herber, D.L. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 11, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2172 Contact: Dmitry I. Gabrilovich, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, Fla. e-mail: dmitry.gabrilovich@moffitt.org