This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Two-part tumor-targeting, <i>Salmonella</i> -based vaccines	<p>Mouse studies suggest a combination of two tumor-targeting, <i>Salmonella</i>-based vaccines could help treat melanoma. In mice with large subcutaneous melanomas, sequential infection with a <i>Salmonella</i> strain encoding a small hairpin RNA targeting <i>signal transducer and activator of transcription 3</i> (<i>Stat3</i>) followed by a strain expressing the tumor antigen <i>survivin</i> (<i>Birc5</i>) lowered tumor growth compared with infection using either strain alone. Next steps include safety testing of the <i>Birc5</i>-expressing strain and clinical trials of the combination.</p> <p>The <i>Stat3</i> knockdown strain used in the study was developed by Vion Pharmaceuticals Inc. but failed a Phase I/II trial to treat advanced solid tumors. The company filed for bankruptcy in 2009.</p> <p>SciBX 4(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.586 Published online May 19, 2011</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Manuel, E.R. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online April 28, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-4676</p> <p>Contact: Don J. Diamond, City of Hope, Duarte, Calif. e-mail: ddiamond@coh.org</p>