This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Pilus-based vaccine for Group B Streptococcus	<p>A vaccine based on a chimeric protein could provide protection against Group B Streptococcus infection. The vaccine's chimeric protein, BP-2a, contained a domain of each one of the six type 2a pilus proteins. In mice, immunization with BP-2a protected against various type 2a pilus-carrying Group B Streptococcus strains compared with control saline immunization. Next steps include preclinical testing of BP-2a as a stand-alone vaccine and also as a carrier for a Group B Streptococcus conjugate vaccine, followed by Phase I studies.</p> <p>SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.613 Published online May 26, 2011</p>	Patented for vaccine use; unavailable for licensing	<p>Nuccitelli, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 18, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1106590108 Contact: Guido Grandi, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Siena, Italy e-mail: guido.grandi@novartis.com Contact: Rino Rappuoli, same affiliation as above e-mail: rino.rappuoli@novartis.com</p>