This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Trimeric form of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) fusion glycoprotein (F) for vaccination	<p>A trimeric form of RSV F could be a useful prophylactic vaccine against RSV infection. In rats challenged with intranasal RSV, animals receiving the alum-adsorbed RSV F trimer had undetectable pulmonary viral loads and protective, RSV-neutralizing antibodies compared with rats that received no immunization. Next steps include further preclinical development of the trimer as an RSV vaccine.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc's MEDI-534, a parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3)-based RSV F vaccine, is in Phase I testing. Novavax Inc. also has an RSV F vaccine in Phase I trials.</p> <p>SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.614 Published online May 26, 2011</p>	Patented for vaccine use; unavailable for licensing	<p>Swanson, K.A. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 17, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1106536108</p> <p>Contact: Andrea Carfi, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: andrea.carfi@novartis.com</p> <p>Contact: Rino Rappuoli, same affiliation as above e-mail: rino.rappuoli@novartis.com</p>