This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Brain-penetrating antibodies	Mouse studies suggest blood brain barrier (BBB)-penetrant antibodies could help treat neurological disorders. In mice, mAbs engineered to weakly bind transferrin receptor protein 1 (Tfrc; Tfr; Cd71) penetrated the BBB and accumulated in the brain in therapeutic concentrations compared with control mAbs. A bispecific antibody that bound Tfrc and β-site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (Bace1), which is involved in the production of β-amyloid (Aβ), led to lower brain Aβ levels than control mAbs. Next steps at Genentech Inc. include continuing preclinical development of BACE1-targeting mAbs and engineering bispecific antibodies for other neurological targets. ArmaGen Technologies is developing TFRC-targeting mAbs for neurological indications. SciBX 4(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.640 Published online June 2, 2011	Patent pending; unavailable for licensing	Yu, Y.J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 25, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002230 Contact: Ryan J. Watts, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: rwatts@gene.com Contact: Mark S. Dennis, same affiliation as above e-mail: msd@gene.com