This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Vaccine targeting heroin and its psychoactive metabolites	A vaccine that targets heroin and its psychoactive metabolites could help improve heroin rehabilitation therapy. A heroin-like protein conjugate was adsorbed onto alum to generate a vaccine that produced multiple drug-like antigens through slow hydrolysis of the immunoconjugate. In rats, injection of this vaccine led to high titers of antibodies with affinity for heroin and its metabolites and no affinity for opioid antagonists that are commonly used as heroin rehabilitation therapeutics. In these rats, the effects of heroin were blocked, and heroin self-administration was decreased compared with that in rats injected with control vaccine. Next steps include finding a company to partner with for preclinical evaluation of the vaccine and applying for an IND. SciBX 4(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.809 Published online July 21, 2011	Unpatented; available for licensing from The Scripps Research Institute Office of Technology Development	Stowe, G.N. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online June 21, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200461m Contact: Kim D. Janda, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: kdjanda@scripps.edu