This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
A recombinant <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> factor H-binding protein (fHBP)-based vaccine for broad protective immunity	<p>A recombinant fHBP-based vaccine could provide protection against serogroup B <i>N. meningitidis</i> strains. Recombinant fHBPs displaying two recombinant immunodominant regions were tested in a murine bactericidal activity assay and further optimized by fusing two copies of the fHBP to another meningococcal antigen. In mice, the fusion vaccine showed bactericidal activity toward serogroup B <i>N. meningitidis</i> variants 1, 2 and 3. Next steps could include using a mouse challenge model of group B <i>N. meningitidis</i> strains.</p> <p>Novartis AG has the multicomponent meningococcal serogroup B vaccine 4CMenB in Phase III testing.</p> <p>SciBX 4(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.863 Published online Aug. 4, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Scarselli, M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online July 13, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002234</p> <p>Contact: Rino Rappuoli, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics S.r.l., Siena, Italy e-mail: rino.rappuoli@novartis.com</p> <p>Contact: Lucia Banci, University of Florence, Florence, Italy e-mail: banci@cerm.unifi.it</p>