This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Peptide activators of invariant NK T (iNKT) cells	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that peptide activators of iNKT cells could help treat autoimmune diseases, inflammatory diseases and transplant rejection. In mouse models of inflammation, collagen-induced arthritis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), vaccination with an iNKT cell-activating peptide improved disease compared with vaccination using a control peptide. Next steps include identifying peptides that can activate iNKT cells in humans.</p> <p>Acellera Therapeutics Ltd. has undisclosed agents that promote iNKT cell activation in preclinical development for liver transplantation and inflammation.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.89 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Liu, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 13, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI43964</p> <p>Contact: Shohreh Issazadeh-Navikas, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark e-mail: shohreh.issazadeh@bric.ku.dk</p>