This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Autologous regulatory B (B _{reg}) cell therapy for autoimmune diseases	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest B_{reg} cells cultured <i>ex vivo</i> could be useful for treating autoimmune diseases. In cell culture, spleen-derived B cells stimulated with IL-21 and cocultured with T cells expressing CD40 ligand (CD40LG; CD40L; CD154) showed extensive proliferation and produced high levels of the anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10, a marker of B_{reg} cells. In a mouse model of multiple sclerosis (MS), reinfusion of <i>ex vivo</i>-expanded B_{reg} cells decreased disease severity compared with vehicle infusion. Next steps include isolating and expanding human B_{reg} cells. SciBX 5(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1123 Published online Oct. 25, 2012	Patent pending; available for licensing	Yoshizaki, A. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 14, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11501 Contact: Thomas Tedder, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: thomas.tedder@duke.edu