This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Crystal structures that model T cell receptor (TCR)-mediated nickel allergy	<p>Crystal structures that model TCR-mediated nickel allergy could help identify new strategies to treat or prevent the condition. Crystal structures were solved for two peptides bound to the major histocompatibility complex class II (MHCII) molecule DR52c, which is known to bind nickel ions, and of a peptide-DR52c complexed with a TCR. Analysis of the crystal structures and additional <i>in vitro</i> studies identified a candidate nickel ion binding site in DR52c. Next steps could include using the crystal structures to develop compounds to disrupt the interaction between DR52c and nickel ions.</p> <p>SciBX 5(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1189 Published online Nov. 15, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Yin, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 22, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1215928109 Contact: Shaodong Dai, National Jewish Health, Denver, Colo. e-mail: dais@njhealth.org Contact: John W. Kappler, same affiliation as above e-mail: kapplerj@njhealth.org</p>