This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Engineered HPV particles that encapsulate viral genes for intravaginal vaccination against infection	<p>Mouse studies suggest intravaginal immunization using engineered HPV particles could help protect against mucosal pathogens. In mice, intravaginal vaccination with different engineered HPV particles that encapsulate a proof-of-concept antigen led to strong, durable antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cell responses in the cervicovaginal mucus, whereas intramuscular or intranasal vaccine delivery methods led to dampened antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cell responses. Mice that received the intravaginal vaccine were protected against challenge with a virus expressing the proof-of-concept antigen two months after immunization boost. Next steps include testing the engineered HPV particles as prophylactic vaccines for herpes simplex virus (HSV) and HPV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1244 Published online Dec. 6, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; vectors and use in preventing cancer and sexually transmitted infections available for licensing	<p>Çuburu, N. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Nov. 12, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI63287 Contact: John T. Schiller, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: schillej@dc37a.nci.nih.gov</p>