This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Tobacco-manufactured antibodies to treat Ebola infection	<p>A study in mice suggests tobacco-manufactured mAbs could help prevent Ebola infection. Neutralizing mAbs against an Ebola glycoprotein had a distinct glycosylation pattern when produced in transgenic tobacco instead of in mammalian cells. In cell culture, mAbs with this glycosylation pattern had more potent complement activation and antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity than mammalian cell-produced mAbs. In mice, injection of tobacco-produced mAbs prior to Ebola infection increased survival compared with injection of mammalian cell-produced mAbs. Next steps include preclinical testing of the tobacco-produced mAbs in monkey models of Ebola infection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.58 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Zeitlin, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 5, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1108360108 Contact: Larry Zeitlin, Mapp Biopharmaceutical Inc., San Diego, Calif. e-mail: larry.zeitlin@mappbio.com</p>