This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Lipid nanoparticle formulation of self-amplifying RNAs for vaccination	Self-amplifying RNA presented in a lipid nanoparticle formulation could be a viable nonviral alternative to viral delivery-based RNA vaccination technologies. In mice and rats, intramuscular injection of a lipid nanoparticle-encapsulated, self-amplifying RNA (LNP/RNA) encoding the RSV F protein had immunogenicity comparable to injection of viral replicon particles. In cotton rats challenged with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), prophylactic vaccination with the RSV F protein-encoding LNP/RNA provided protection comparable to that of vaccination with viral replicon particles. Ongoing studies include testing the LNP/RNA platform in larger animals.	Patent applications filed; unlicensed	Geall, A.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 20, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1209367109 Contact: Andrew J. Geall, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: andrew.geall@novartis.com
	SciBX 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.966 Published online Sept. 13, 2012		