This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Sortase-mediated modification of a targeted mAb to improve antigen delivery and presentation	Sortase-mediated modification of therapeutic mAbs could be useful for developing vaccines and therapeutics to treat viral infections. Sortase A was used to generate conjugate molecules consisting of 1 out of 19 different peptide epitopes of a mouse γ -herpes virus (MHV-68) linked to a mAb against lymphocyte antigen 75 (LY75; DEC205). In mice, immunization with the conjugated mAb prior to infection with MHV-68 led to a 10-fold decrease of viral titers compared with immunization using free peptide epitopes. Next steps could include using the method to modify other antibody-based vaccines.	Patent pending covering use of sortase enzymes for protein modification; available for licensing	Swee, L.K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Jan. 7, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1214994110 Contact: Hidde L. Ploegh, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: ploegh@wi.mit.edu
	SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.102 Published online Jan. 31, 2013		