This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Predicting transplant rejection with a universal, common rejection module	<p>Computational analysis of gene expression data from organ transplant patients identified an 11-gene signature that correlated with acute transplant rejection. In biopsies from a cohort of 120 renal transplant recipients, the signature predicted future transplant rejection in symptomless patients. In a mouse cardiac transplant model, Lipitor atorvastatin or Sprycel dasatinib, which reduced the levels or activity of different components of the signature, decreased the number of graft-infiltrating CD8⁺ T cells and increased transplant survival compared with no treatment. Next steps include validating the signature and immune benefits conferred by Lipitor on transplant survival in prospective clinical trials.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor Lipitor to treat hypercholesterolemia, stroke, coronary artery disease (CAD), myocardial infarction (MI) and other cardiovascular indications. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. markets the tyrosine kinase inhibitor Sprycel to treat hematopoietic cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1277 Published online Nov. 14, 2013</p>	Patent applications filed by Stanford University; available for licensing	<p>Khatri, P. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 14, 2013; doi:10.1084/jem.20122709 Contact: Minnie M. Sarwal, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: msarwal@psg.ucsf.edu</p>