This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
A vaccine based on a stabilized variant of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) F protein	<p>A stabilized variant of RSV F protein could be used as a vaccine antigen to prevent RSV infection. RSV F was modified with C-terminal trimerization domains, cysteine pairs and cavity-filling hydrophobic substitutions to generate stable RSV F trimers that resembled a conformation of the protein adopted before virus-cell interaction. In mice, vaccination with modified RSV F provided neutralizing activity eight times greater than that achieved with vaccination using an RSV F antigen that adopted a conformation seen after virus-cell fusion. In rhesus macaques, vaccination with the modified RSV F provided neutralizing activity 70–80 times greater than that seen with vaccination using the postfusion-like RSV F.</p> <p>Next steps include moving the modified version of RSV F into GMP production for clinical trials.</p> <p>At least nine companies have therapeutics or vaccines in development to treat RSV.</p> <p>SciBX 6(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1304 Published online Nov. 21, 2013</p>	The prefusion-stabilized RSV F glycoproteins as vaccine antigens are patented; available for licensing through the NIH's Office of the Director	<p>McLellan, J.S. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Nov. 1, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1243283</p> <p>Contact: Peter D. Kwong, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: pdkwong@nih.gov</p> <p>Contact: Barney S. Graham, same affiliation as above e-mail: bgraham@nih.gov</p>