This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Formulation of T cell vaccines for cancer	<p>Mouse studies suggest saline formulations of T cell–targeted cancer vaccines could provide greater antitumor activity than conventional adjuvant carriers. In a mouse model for melanoma, subcutaneous injection with a tumor antigen vaccine formulated in incomplete Freund’s adjuvant (IFA), a widely used oil-based carrier, caused accumulation of antigen-specific T cells at the injection site and elicited lower antitumor activity than injection of a saline-based control formulation of the same antigen. Mice receiving the saline-based formulation with an adjuvant cocktail of IL-2, a toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist and an antibody against CD40 had higher levels of tumor-infiltrating T cells than mice receiving an IFA-based vaccine. Next steps include optimizing the vaccine formulation to maximize dendritic cell uptake of the antigen and testing the formulation in an investigator-led trial for melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.272 Published online March 21, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hailemichael, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 3, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3105</p> <p>Contact: Willem W. Overwijk, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas</p> <p>e-mail: woverwijk@mdanderson.org</p>