This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Controlled Fab-arm exchange (cFAE) approach to develop bispecific antibodies for therapeutic use	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a method to develop bispecific antibodies as therapeutics. The cFAE method involved expressing matched mutant methyl domains in two IgG1 antibodies and combining the antibodies with a weak reducing agent to preserve the heavy-chain and light-chain pairings. Bispecific antibodies were designed including those that target both CD20 and HER2 (EGFR2; ErbB2; neu), as well as those that target HER2 and CD3. In cancer cells and in mice xenograft models for gastric carcinoma, the HER2- and CD3-targeting antibody decreased cancer cell survival compared with a control antibody. Next steps include developing bispecific antibody therapeutic candidates.	Patent applications filed; licensed to Novartis AG, Janssen Pharmaceuticals N.V., Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co. Ltd. and an undisclosed company for specific programs; available for licensing	Labrijn, A.F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 11, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1220145110 Contact: Paul W.H.I. Parren, Genmab A/S, Brooklyn Park, Minn. e-mail: p.parren@genmab.com
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