This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Transglutaminase (TGM)-mediated synthesis of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest conjugating chemotherapeutics to engineered glutamine residues could improve the <i>in vivo</i> pharmacokinetics of ADCs. mAbs against three common tumor targets were engineered with recognition sites for <i>Streptovorticillium mobaraense</i> tgm and conjugated to a tubulin inhibitor. In mouse and rat tumor models, the best of these glutamine-conjugated ADCs had similar potency but better stability and pharmacokinetics compared with conventional cysteine-conjugated ADCs. Next steps could include optimizing the engineered conjugation target sites for therapeutic mAbs.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.300 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Strop, P. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Feb. 21, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2013.01.010 Contact: Arvind Rajpa, Rinat-Pfizer, South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: arvind.rajpal@pfizer.com Contact: Pavel Strop, same affiliation as above e-mail: pavel.strop@pfizer.com</p>