This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Bacteriophage T4 co-delivery of DNA and proteins for prime-boost vaccines	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest co-delivery of DNA and proteins with bacteriophage T4 could be useful as a vaccine. In mice, intramuscular injection with bacteriophage T4 heads engineered to package the <i>Yersinia pestis</i> F1-V gene and display the <i>Y. pestis</i> F1-V protein and dendritic cell-specific mAbs against lymphocyte antigen 75 (LY75; DEC205) led to antibody and interferon- γ (IFN γ) production, whereas injecting the analogous construct lacking the F1-V gene led to antibody production alone. Next steps include using the bacteriophage T4 heads to engineer vaccines for other infectious diseases.	Patent application filed; unlicensed	Tao, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 25, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1300867110 Contact: Venigalla B. Rao, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. e-mail: rao@cua.edu
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