This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Efficient generation of seed virus for production of synthetic influenza vaccines	<p>A synthetic approach for assembling influenza A virus genome segments could improve the efficiency of generating seed virus for vaccine production. A mostly automated, one-step, oligonucleotide-based assembly process with error correction increased the accuracy in genome segment assembly from about 3% to more than 80%. In cells approved for vaccine manufacture, seed virus was recovered from cells transfected with the genome segments and viral backbone elements. In a simulated pandemic setting, the synthetic method yielded seed virus in 4 days and 4 hours, whereas methods used in response to the 2009 influenza pandemic required 36 days. Next steps include automating additional steps of the seed virus-generation process and applying this method to generate RNA vaccines.</p> <p>SciBX 6(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.532 Published online May 30, 2013</p>	<p>Patented by Novartis AG, Synthetic Genomics Inc. and MedImmune LLC; available for licensing</p>	<p>Dormitzer, P.R. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 15, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3006368 Contact: Philip R. Dormitzer, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: philip.dormitzer@novartis.com</p>