This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
<i>Escherichia coli</i> coculture for making bispecific antibodies	<p>An <i>E. coli</i> coculture method could be used to make bispecific antibodies. Cocultures of two different <i>E. coli</i> cell types expressing an anti-c-Met proto-oncogene (MET; HGFR) half-antibody with a 'hole' modification at the heterodimerization interface or an anti-epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) half-antibody with a 'knob' modification at the heterodimerization interface were harvested and lysed. In the lysate, the half-antibodies spontaneously assembled into a bispecific antibody. In EGFR-driven, MET-driven or MET-EGFR co-dependent xenograft mouse models, the purified bispecific antibody decreased tumor volume compared with vehicle. The coculture method was used to generate 27 additional bispecific antibodies. Next steps include optimizing coculture and purification methods to increase antibody titers and identifying new target combinations.</p> <p>SciBX 6(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.807 Published online Aug. 8, 2013</p>	<p>Patent and licensing status undisclosed</p>	<p>Spiess, C. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online July 7, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2621 Contact: Justin M. Scheer, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: scheer.justin@gene.com Contact: Christoph Spiess, same affiliation as above e-mail: spiess.christoph@gene.com</p>