This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
2'-O-methyltransferase-deficient, live, attenuated dengue virus vaccine	<p>2'-O-methyltransferase-deficient dengue virus could be used to develop live, attenuated vaccines against the infection. In mice and nonhuman primates, dengue virus serotypes 1 and 2 with loss-of-function mutations in 2'-O-methyltransferase were attenuated but still induced a protective immune response, including the production of neutralizing antibodies. In mice and nonhuman primates, vaccination with an attenuated dengue strain protected the animals from a subsequent challenge with a virulent strain. Next steps include evaluating the 2'-O-methyltransferase deficiency in dengue virus serotypes 3 and 4 and then developing a vaccine candidate that could protect against all four dengue virus serotypes.</p> <p>SciBX 6(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.942 Published online Sept. 5, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)	<p>Züst, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2013; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003521 Contact: Katja Fink, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore e-mail: katja_fink@immunol.a-star.edu.sg Contact: Pei-Yong Shi, Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, Singapore e-mail: pei_yong.shi@novartis.com Contact: Cheng-Feng Qin, Beijing Institute of Microbiology & Epidemiology, Beijing, China e-mail: qincf@bmi.ac.cn</p>