This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Design of motif-specific antibody scaffolds targeting post-translational modifications	<p>Motif-specific antibody scaffolds for use in phage display libraries could help generate mAbs that target post-translational modifications. Current methods to generate mAbs that target post-translational modifications largely rely on <i>in vivo</i> immunization, which is generally lower throughput, slower and less precise than the generation of mAbs via <i>in vitro</i> methods. mAb scaffolds were designed with pockets that bind to phosphorylated serine, threonine or tyrosine and were used to generate two single-chain Fv mAb phage display libraries. The libraries yielded 51 mAbs that bound to 7 different peptides containing phosphorylated amino acid residues with affinities ranging from 42 to 5,000 nM. Next steps include automating the process and designing mAb scaffolds against other post-translational modifications.</p> <p>SciBX 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.976 Published online Sept. 12, 2013</p>	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Koerber, J.T. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Aug. 18, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2672 Contact: James A. Wells, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: jim.wells@ucsf.edu</p>