This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Cell membrane-cloaked polymeric nanoparticles to clear autoreactive antibodies associated with autoimmune diseases	Nanoparticles cloaked in cell membranes could help clear autoreactive antibodies associated with autoimmune conditions such as hemolytic anemia and immune thrombocytopenia. <i>In vitro</i> , polymeric nanoparticles coated with a single layer of mouse red blood cell (RBC) membranes bound to and neutralized antibodies that target mouse RBCs. In mouse models of anti-RBC antibody-induced anemia, the RBC membrane-cloaked nanoparticles decreased circulating levels of the antibodies and increased RBC, hemoglobin and hematocrit levels compared with inactive pegylated nanoparticles. Ongoing work includes developing membrane-cloaked nanoparticles to treat other autoimmune conditions.	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	Copp, J.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 2, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1412420111 Contact: Liangfang Zhang, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: zhang@ucsd.edu
	SciBX 7(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1108 Published online Sept. 25, 2014		