This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Stabilized drug linker for antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest a stabilized drug linker in ADCs could result in improved antitumor activity. In patient serum, thiosuccinimide linkages in ADCs are stabilized when the thiosuccinimide ring undergoes hydrolysis and are broken when maleimide is eliminated from the linker. In an ADC containing the anti-CD30 antibody cAC10, inclusion of a reactive non-natural amino acid next to the maleimide group of the linker resulted in increased linker hydrolysis rates in buffer or rat sera and increased linker stability in rats compared with no amino acid modification. In mouse xenograft models of lymphoma, a conjugate of cAC10 and the stabilized linker showed greater antitumor activity than a conjugate that used a less-stable linker. Ongoing work includes further evaluating the linker strategy and expanding it to other ADCs.</p> <p>Seattle Genetics Inc. markets Adcetris brentuximab vedotin, an ADC with the anti-CD30 antibody cAC10, to treat Hodgkin's lymphoma. The company also has the ADC in Phase III testing to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL) and in Phase II trials to treat B cell lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 7(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1132 Published online Oct. 2, 2014</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Lyon, R.P. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Sept. 7, 2014; doi:10.1038/nbt.2968</p> <p>Contact: Robert P. Lyon, Seattle Genetics Inc., Bothell, Wash. e-mail: rlyon@seagen.com</p>