This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Screening platform to produce high-affinity nanobodies	<p>A platform that uses high throughput DNA sequencing and mass spectrometric analysis of variable domains from immunized llamas could be used to develop high-affinity nanobody reagents and therapeutics. Nanobodies are camelid-derived, single-domain antibodies. In the current platform, llamas were immunized with GFP and variable domain fragments from the resulting antibodies were analyzed by mass spectrometry. In parallel, variable domain cDNAs from bone marrow lymphocytes were sequenced and computational analysis was used to identify corresponding peptides from the mass spectrometry data. After incorporating top-ranked sequences into recombinant nanobodies, several anti-GFP nanobodies were identified with affinities in the subnanomolar range. Next steps include generating nanobodies against targets with diagnostic and therapeutic utility.</p> <p>SciBX 7(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1365 Published online Dec. 4, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Fridy, P.C. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i>; published online Nov. 2, 2014; doi:10.1038/nmeth.3170 Contact: Michael P. Rout, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: rout@rockefeller.edu Contact: Brian T. Chait, same affiliation as above e-mail: chait@rockefeller.edu Contact: David Fenyo, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: david@fenyolab.org</p>