This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Extending therapeutic protein half-lives via fusion to affibodies with pH-dependent binding to neonatal Fc receptor	Fusing therapeutic proteins to affibodies with pH-dependent binding to neonatal Fc receptor could improve the proteins' half-lives. Binding to Fc receptors improves the half-life of biopharmaceuticals. Phage display and ELISA studies identified small proteins called affibodies that bound human neonatal Fc receptor with low nanomolar affinities at pH 6.0 but not at pH 7.4. In mice, a recombinant test protein fused to various Fc receptor-binding affibodies had half-lives that were 1.8- to 2.7-fold greater than that of the unfused protein. Next steps could include comparing the efficacy of affibody-conjugated and unconjugated therapeutic proteins in disease models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Seijsing, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 18, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1417717111 Contact: Torbjörn Gräslund, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: torbjorn@biotech.kth.se
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