This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Binary nylon-3 copolymers containing cationic and hydrophobic subunits for antimicrobial activity	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified binary nylon-3 copolymers containing cationic and hydrophobic subunits that could help treat and prevent bacterial infections. Nylon-3 copolymers were designed to mimic antibacterial host-defense peptides by modulating the arrangement of backbone components and subunits. The copolymer with the highest potency against prokaryotic cells versus eukaryotic cells showed strong antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> and methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>. Resistance against the copolymer was not observed through 10 cell-culturing passages. Next steps include evaluating the polymers as antimicrobial agents on surfaces of implantable devices.</p> <p>SciBX 7(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.441 Published online April 17, 2014</p>	Patent applications filed covering polymers; available for licensing	<p>Liu, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online March 7, 2014; doi:10.1021/ja500367u</p> <p>Contact: Samuel H. Gellman, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: gellman@chem.wisc.edu</p> <p>Contact: Kristyn S. Masters, same affiliation as above e-mail: kmasters@wisc.edu</p>