This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Cells with reduced N-glycan variability for therapeutic protein production	Cells with a modified Golgi N-glycosylation pathway could be useful for producing proteins with improved therapeutic properties. The GlycoDelete platform shortens the Golgi N-glycosylation pathway in mammalian cells to decrease N-glycan variability in proteins. In engineered human embryonic kidney (HEK) cells producing granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF; CSF2), the protein had activity comparable to that of GM-CSF produced in the same cell line without the GlycoDelete modifications. In GlycoDelete-engineered HEK cells producing an anti-CD20 IgG, the antibody had a lower clearance rate than anti-CD20 IgG generated in a cell line without the GlycoDelete modifications. Next steps could include using the GlycoDelete platform to generate additional therapeutic proteins and comparing their properties with the parent compound.	Patent application filed; licensing status unavailable	Meuris, L. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online April 20, 2014; doi:10.1038/nbt.2885 Contact: Nico Callewaert, Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), Ghent, Belgium e-mail: nico.callewaert@irc.vib-ugent.be
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