

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
High-avidity antibodies	<p>Monoclonal recombinant production and <i>in vitro</i> characterization of lamprey antibodies suggest that these molecules could be useful as diagnostic tools. Lamprey variable lymphocyte receptor (VLR) antibodies are stable multimers, show high avidity and are resistant to denaturation under most storage and assay conditions, making them suitable for field diagnostics. Because lamprey VLR antibodies have one antigen-binding surface, rather than two like mammalian antibodies, custom antibody design could be more feasible than with mammalian mAbs. Next steps include improving the binding affinity through protein engineering and splicing the lamprey antigen-binding regions onto a human antibody.</p>	<p>Patent applications filed; available for licensing</p>	<p>Herrin, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 12, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0711619105 Contact: Max Cooper, Emory Vaccine Center, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. email: mdcoope@emory.edu</p>