

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug delivery</b>			
Spleen-targeted antigen delivery to improve the efficacy of therapeutic vaccines	A study in mice suggests that targeted antigen delivery to the periarteriolar lymphoid sheath (PALS) of the spleen may be useful for increasing host immune response to vaccine antigens. <i>In situ</i> fluorescence microscopy studies of <i>Listeria</i> -infected mice revealed that splenic dendritic cells (DCs) delivered bacterial antigens to the PALS to initiate CD8 <sup>+</sup> T cell responses. In the same murine infection models, pretreatment with pertussis toxin to prevent DC migration to the PALS significantly lowered survival compared with that of untreated infected controls ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Next steps include identifying the molecular requirements for antigen delivery to the PALS and studying antigen transport during infection using other pathogens to see if the observed results can be generalized to other infectious agents.	Not patented; available for licensing through the Washington University Office of Technology Management	Aoshi, A. <i>et al. Immunity</i> ; published online Sept. 18, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2008.06.013 <b>Contact:</b> Mark J. Miller, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: <a href="mailto:miller@pathology.wustl.edu">miller@pathology.wustl.edu</a>