

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Polysaccharide vaccines with improved potency	<p>Positively and negatively charged polysaccharides could be useful adjuvants for antibacterial vaccines. In mice, a diphtheria antigen conjugated to a dually charged polysaccharide was more immunogenic than the antigen alone. Mice immunized with the conjugated vaccine were more resistant to infection than mice immunized with a control vaccine. Next steps include optimizing the synthesis of dually charged polysaccharides.</p> <p>Novartis AG, sanofi-aventis Group and GlaxoSmithKline plc have polysaccharide vaccines on the market for various bacterial infections.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1489</b>  <b>Published online Oct. 8, 2009</b></p>	Patented by Novartis; unavailable for licensing	<p>Gallorini, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.</i>; published online Sept. 29, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0903313106</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Andreas Wack, National Institute for Medical Research, London, U.K.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:awack@nimr.mrc.ac.uk">awack@nimr.mrc.ac.uk</a></p>