

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Synthetic phosphatidylinositol mannoside (PIM) glycans as vaccine adjuvants	Synthetic mycobacterial PIMs may be useful for stimulating the immune response against disease-associated antigens. PIMs, which are precursors to cell wall glycolipids in mycobacteria, can elicit a strong immune response. In wild-type mice, the antigen keyhole-limpet hemocyanin (KLH) linked to a synthetic PIM substantially increased anti-KLH antibody titers and T cell proliferation compared with what was seen in mice treated with KLH alone. PIM-linked KLH also boosted interferon- γ (IFN- γ) production compared with the effects of other immunostimulatory adjuvants such as Freund's adjuvant, alum or CpG. Next steps include identifying the PIM receptor and evaluating the use of PIMs to stimulate an immune response against a host of disease-associated antigens. <i>SciBX</i> 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.36 Published online Jan. 8, 2009	Patent application filed for use as an immunostimulant; available for licensing from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Transfer Zurich Contact: Silke Meyns, ETH Transfer Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: meyns@sl.ethz.ch	Boonyarattanakalin, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Nov. 17, 2008; doi:10.1021/ja806283e Contact: Peter H. Seeberger, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: seeberger@org.chem.ethz.ch