

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
<p>Acetalated dextran (Ac-DEX) with tunable degradation rates for controlled particulate immunotherapy</p>	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that Ac-DEX could function as a biomaterial to optimize microparticle-based immunotherapy. When loaded with ovalbumin or ovalbumin peptides, the Ac-DEX particles delivered antigen for presentation by MHC complexes <i>in vitro</i>. Varying the number and types of acetyl modifications on the dextran microparticles allowed the particles to be tuned to degrade at different rates, thus helping control antigen presentation for immunotherapy. Next steps include studying the materials in cancer models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.555 Published online April 2, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed for a broad spectrum of drug, antigen, gene and small interfering RNA delivery; available for licensing</p>	<p>Broaders, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 23, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901592106 Contact: Jean M.J. Fréchet, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: frechet@berkeley.edu</p>