This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Boosting immune response to tumors using small hairpin RNA	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that shRNA could help boost immunity against tumors. In mouse fibroblasts transformed by human papillomavirus (HPV), shRNA knockdown of viral transcripts increased production of truncated virus-derived proteins on the cell surface compared with mock treatment. Mice injected with these shRNA-treated tumor cells developed a protective cytotoxic T lymphocyte response against the tumor and had smaller tumors than mice receiving untreated tumor cells. Mice exposed to shRNA-treated tumors also had less tumor growth than naïve mice when subsequently challenged with untreated tumor cells. Next steps include testing the effect of shRNA knockdown on immunity to natural tumor-specific antigens in mouse models of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.926 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Gu, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 12, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812085106 Contact: Nigel A.J. McMillan, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia e-mail: n.mcmillan@uq.edu.au</p>