

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Long-lived antibodies	<p>A study in mice and monkeys suggests that antibodies engineered to bind the Fc fragment of IgG receptor transporter-α (FCGRT; FCRN) could help lower doses of mAb therapeutics. FCRN is a receptor on epithelial cells that prevents antibody degradation. In monkeys, two therapeutic antibodies engineered to bind to FCRN had a higher half-life in the serum than did conventional control antibodies. In mouse xenograft cancer models, the modified antibodies persisted in the serum longer and reduced tumor volume more effectively than control antibodies. Next steps including testing whether modified antibodies can reduce dosing in clinical trials.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc., Merck & Co. Inc. and Johnson & Johnson's Centocor Inc. unit have preclinical programs based on this technology, which is licensed from Xencor Inc.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.103 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Patents pending; available for licensing	<p>Zalevsky, J. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Jan. 17, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1601</p> <p>Contact: John R. Desjarlais, Xencor Inc., Monrovia, Calif. e-mail: jrd@xencor.com</p>