

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Tobacco plant-derived mAbs to treat West Nile virus infection	<p>Tobacco plants could be useful for large-scale production of a therapeutic mAb against West Nile virus. Tobacco plants were modified to produce a mAb that neutralized the West Nile virus. The transgenic plants produced about 0.8 grams of antibody per kilogram of fresh leaves. In mouse models of lethal West Nile virus infection, prophylactic and therapeutic use of the plant-derived mAb led to dose-dependent increases in survival compared with use of phosphate buffer control. Next steps could include generating transgenic plants that produce other therapeutic mAbs.</p> <p>SciBX 3(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.264 Published online Feb. 25, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lai, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0914503107</p> <p>Contact: Qiang Chen, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. e-mail: qiang.chen.4@asu.edu</p>