

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Synthetic, $\alpha$ -galactosylceramide ( $\alpha$ -GalCer)-based vaccine adjuvant	A synthetic analog of the glycolipid $\alpha$ -GalCer could be a useful malaria vaccine adjuvant. In mice challenged with malaria, immunization using a malaria vaccine plus the glycolipid analog 7DW8-5 significantly improved malaria-specific T cell response and reduced liver parasites compared with immunization using a malaria vaccine plus the $\alpha$ -GalCer parent compound ( $p < 0.05$ for both). Next steps include preclinical studies of 7DW8-5 as an adjuvant to help treat infectious diseases and cancer. RGI-2001, a synthetic $\alpha$ -GalCer derivative from Regimmune Corp., is in preclinical development to treat graft-versus-host disease. The company plans to start a Phase I trial in 3Q10.	Patented; available for licensing	Li, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 28, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006662107 <b>Contact:</b> Chi-Huey Wong, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: <a href="mailto:chwong@gate.sinica.edu.tw">chwong@gate.sinica.edu.tw</a>
	<b>SciBX 3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.841</b> Published online July 15, 2010		