

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Priming cellular immunity using antigen-coated microspheres	<p>A study in mice suggests that antigen-coated microspheres could lead to better vaccines. In mice, immunization with poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) microspheres coated with influenza A virus hemagglutinin (HA) induced a low-level CD8⁺ T cell response compared with immunization with control protein-coated microspheres. A subsequent boost with a short HA peptide increased survival of the mice after influenza challenge compared with no priming and boosting. Similar protection using <i>Plasmodium</i> antigens and strains suggests the technique may be applicable to vaccines against a range of pathogens. Next steps could include testing additional epitopes and evaluating functionality in humans.</p> <p>SciBX 3(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.877 Published online July 22, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Pham, N.L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 21, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1004661107</p> <p>Contact: John Harty, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: john-harty@uiowa.edu</p>