This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Vaccine encapsulated in dissolving microneedle arrays	<p>Studies in mice suggest that dissolvable microneedle patches could be used for vaccine delivery. Mice given microneedles made of a water-soluble polymer that encapsulated an influenza vaccine had antigen-specific antibodies, T cell responses and protection from lethal viral challenge comparable to those of mice receiving the same vaccine via hypodermic needle. Microneedle vaccination increased viral clearance from the lungs of virus-challenged mice by 1,000-fold compared with hypodermic needle vaccination. Ongoing work includes testing immune response to other influenza vaccines delivered by dissolving microneedle arrays.</p> <p>SciBX 3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.907 Published online July 29, 2010</p>	Patented by the Georgia Institute of Technology; available for licensing	<p>Sullivan, S.P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 18, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2182 Contact: Mark R. Prausnitz, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: prausnitz@gatech.edu Contact: Ioanna Skountzou, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: iskount@emory.edu</p>