

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Influenza A virus hemagglutinin (HA) DNA-based vaccines for broad influenza prevention	<p>Studies in ferrets and in primates suggest that vaccinating with DNA encoding HA may help broadly protect against influenza infection. Animals were injected with a plasmid carrying the H1 HA gene and boosted with a recent seasonal H1 vaccine. Ferrets immunized using this method had less nasal viral titer after intranasal challenge with another H1 influenza strain than ferrets that received seasonal vaccine alone. Monkeys immunized using the method produced antibodies specific for a highly conserved region of HA. Next steps could include clinical studies of the vaccine.</p> <p>VaxInnate Corp's VAX125, an influenza A vaccine targeting HA, is in Phase II testing.</p> <p>Vaxart Inc's ND1 Avian flu vaccine, which targets HA, is in preclinical testing.</p> <p>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.933 Published online Aug. 5, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Wei, C.-J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online July 15, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1192517</p> <p>Contact: Gary J. Nabel, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gnabel@nih.gov</p>