This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Malaria prophylaxis with antibiotics	<p>A study in mice suggests that antibiotics could be useful for preventing malaria infection. In a mouse model of malaria infection, either of two generic antibiotics, clindamycin or Zithromax azithromycin, prevented infection after <i>Plasmodium berghei</i> exposure compared with no treatment. Also in mice, antibiotics protected against lethal challenge with <i>P. berghei</i> for at least 40 days post-treatment compared with no treatment. Next steps include clinical testing of the prophylactic technique in countries with endemic malaria.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. has Zithromax azithromycin in Phase III testing to treat malaria.</p> <p>SciBX 3(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.971 Published online Aug. 12, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Friesen, J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online July 14, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001058</p> <p>Contact: Kai Matuschewski, Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin, Germany e-mail: matuschewski@mpiib-berlin.mpg.de</p> <p>Contact: Steffen Borrmann, Heidelberg University School of Medicine, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: steffen.borrmann@urz.uni-heidelberg.de</p>