

**This week in techniques**

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Heterobivalent IgE ligands for the treatment and prevention of allergy	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest heterobivalent IgE ligands could help treat and prevent allergy. The ligands are composed of a hapten linked to a nucleotide analog, and each component binds to distinct IgE Fab domains. <i>In vitro</i> , a lead ligand prevented allergen binding to IgE antibodies with an IC <sub>50</sub> of 0.45 μM. In an <i>in vitro</i> model of mast cell function, the lead ligand inhibited mast cell degranulation, a key step in the allergy response, with an IC <sub>50</sub> of 15 μM. Next steps include testing whether the ligands can inhibit an allergic response in animals.	Patent application filing in progress; not yet available for licensing	Handlogten, M.W. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Sept. 23, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2011.06.012 <b>Contact:</b> Başar Bilgiçer, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. e-mail: <a href="mailto:bbilgicer@nd.edu">bbilgicer@nd.edu</a>
	<b>SciBX 4(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1130</b> Published online Oct. 13, 2011		