This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Modular synthetic lipopeptide vaccine	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a three-part synthetic lipopeptide vaccine could be useful for triggering protective immune responses. The vaccine consists of a lipid adjuvant, a T helper (Th) cell epitope and one of two model peptide antigens. In mice, a panel of the vaccines had higher antibody titers and antigen-targeted T cell activity than no treatment or a control vaccine. Next steps include clinical testing of the three-part vaccines in undisclosed indications. VacTX Pty. Ltd. has exclusively in-licensed the technology for its preclinical vaccine program.</p> <p>GlycoVaxyn AG's SD113 semisynthetic bioconjugate vaccine against <i>Shigella dysenteriae</i> has completed Phase I testing.</p> <p>LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals Inc. has a semisynthetic vaccine against norovirus in Phase I/II trials to prevent norovirus acute gastroenteritis. That vaccine is partnered with GlaxoSmithKline plc and Archimedes Pharma Ltd.</p> <p>SciBX 4(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.324 Published online March 17, 2011</p>	<p>Patented by The University of Melbourne and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research; available for licensing from VacTX</p> <p>Contact: Nick Peace, VacTX Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: nick@starfishvc.com</p>	<p>Zeng, W. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 14, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.227744</p> <p>Contact: David C. Jackson, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: davidcj@unimelb.edu.au</p>