This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Aminocyclitol phytoceramides as vaccine adjuvants	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies identified aminocyclitol phytoceramide compounds that could be useful as vaccine adjuvants. In invariant NK T (iNKT) cells, one of the aminocyclitol phytoceramides induced interferon-γ (Ifng; Ifn-γ) and Il-4 production. In mice, intraperitoneal injections of the compound increased serum Ifn-γ and Il-4 levels compared with injections of negative controls. Next steps include synthesizing and optimizing new generations of aminocyclitol phytoceramides.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.836 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	<p>Patent applications filed; available for licensing from the Spanish Council for Scientific Research Technology Transfer Office</p> <p>Contact: Isabel Masip, Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: isabel.masip@iqac.csic.es</p>	<p>Harrak, Y. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online July 5, 2011; doi:10.1021/ja202610x</p> <p>Contact: Amadeu Llebaria, Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: amadeu.llebaria@iqac.csic.es</p> <p>Contact: A. Raúl Castaño, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: raul.castano@uab.cat.es</p>