

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
mRNA vaccines to prevent influenza A infection	<p>Vaccination with a mixture of protamine-complexed mRNAs could help prevent influenza A infection. A mixture of protamine-complexed mRNA was formulated that could be stored for three weeks without loss of efficacy. In both newborn and aged mice, immunization with a vaccine containing influenza A virus hemagglutinin and influenza A virus neuraminidase mRNAs resulted in 100% survival against a lethal influenza virus challenge and no signs of infection, whereas immunization with a control antigen led to 0% survival. In pigs, immunization with a related mRNA vaccine that also contained influenza A virus nucleoprotein (NP) mRNA prevented signs of clinical disease following influenza virus challenge, whereas immunization with a control antigen did not. Next steps include studying the long-term protection conferred by this vaccine approach.</p> <p>CureVac GmbH has mRNA-based vaccines in preclinical development to prevent undisclosed infections.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(49); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1297</b>  <b>Published online Dec. 20, 2012</b></p>	<p>Patented; Sanofi has an exclusive option to develop vaccines for predefined, undisclosed pathogens; additional indications available for partnering</p>	<p>Petsch, B. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2012; doi:10.1038/nbt.2436  <b>Contact:</b> Lothar Stitz, Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Greifswald-Insel Riems, Germany            e-mail: <a href="mailto:lothar.stitz@fli.bund.de">lothar.stitz@fli.bund.de</a>  <b>Contact:</b> Karl-Josef Kallen, CureVac GmbH, Tübingen, Germany            e-mail: <a href="mailto:josef.kallen@curevac.com">josef.kallen@curevac.com</a></p>