

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
HIV-1 Env epitopes engineered to enhance the production of broadly neutralizing antibodies	<p>A recombinant protein containing a combination of epitopes derived from the HIV-1 viral envelope glycoprotein Env could aid the development of an HIV vaccine. The recombinant protein consisted of three HIV gp120 units and three HIV gp41 subunits, and when expressed in cell lines it generated a complex that strongly resembled native Env spikes. <i>In vitro</i> binding and cell-based neutralization studies showed that the protein bound with high affinity to previously characterized HIV-1 broadly neutralizing Env antibodies but not to non-neutralizing Env antibodies. Next steps could include scaling up production of the recombinant protein and testing its immunogenicity in small animals.</p> <p>SciBX 6(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1174 Published online Oct. 24, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Sanders, R.W. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online Sept. 19, 2013; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003618 Contact: John P. Moore, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: jpm2003@med.cornell.edu Contact: Rogier W. Sanders, same affiliation as above e-mail: rws2002@med.cornell.edu</p>