

### This week in techniques

| Approach  | Summary  | Licensing status  | Publication and contact information  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Drug platforms</b>   |  |   |  |
| Cross-reactive anti-HIV antibody to guide vaccine epitope development | Structural and evolutionary analysis of a new cross-reactive HIV antibody could be used to design vaccines to help prevent the disease. A time-course analysis of blood samples taken from a newly infected patient with HIV tracked the evolution of a new cross-reactive anti-HIV Env antibody that neutralized 55% of viral isolates <i>in vitro</i> . The antibody showed less somatic mutation than previously identified broadly neutralizing antibodies, and its germline B cell receptor precursor bound HIV Env with low nanomolar affinity. Next steps could include using HIV Env variants from this viral isolate to guide the design of vaccine epitopes. | Patent applications filed; licensing status unavailable | Liao, H.-X. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online April 3, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12053<br><b>Contact:</b> Hua-Xin Liao, Duke University, Durham, N.C.<br>e-mail: <a href="mailto:hliao@duke.edu">hliao@duke.edu</a><br><b>Contact:</b> Barton F. Haynes, same affiliation as above<br>e-mail: <a href="mailto:barton.haynes@duke.edu">barton.haynes@duke.edu</a> |
|   | <b>SciBX 6(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.352</b><br>Published online April 11, 2013  |   |  |