

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Rational design of HIV gp120 immunogen to induce broadly neutralizing antibodies	<p>HIV gp120 immunogen complexes could be used to induce the production of broadly neutralizing HIV antibodies. The native HIV gp120 antigen does not engage germline precursor B cell receptors that give rise to broadly neutralizing anti-HIV antibodies. An immunogen was created from gp120 by removing specific glycosylated residues, and multimers of the resulting protein were conjugated to nanoparticles. The immunogen complex bound and activated germline precursor B cell receptors, whereas a monomeric control antigen did not. Next steps include evaluating the complex in humanized mice expressing B cell receptors that recognize the immunogen.</p> <p>SciBX 6(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.377 Published online April 18, 2013</p>	Patent application filed for findings in both studies; available for licensing	<p>Jardine, J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online March 28, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1234150 Contact: William R. Schief, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: schief@scripps.edu</p> <p>McGuire, A.T. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online March 25, 2013; doi:10.1084/jem.20122824 Contact: Leonidas Stamatatos, Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: leo.stamatatos@seattlebiomed.org</p>