

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Improved safety for blood brain barrier (BBB)-penetrating antibodies	<p>Mouse studies suggest bispecific antibodies that cross the BBB can be made safer by modifying the effector portion of the antibody. Previous studies identified a BBB-penetrant, bispecific mAb against the Alzheimer's disease (AD) target β-site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1) and transferrin receptor protein 1 (TFRC; TFR; CD71). In mice, a variant of the mAb that was unable to bind the Fc γ-receptor (FCGR) showed BBB penetration levels comparable to those of the original mAb. In mice, the mAb variant showed a better toxicity profile than the original mAb. Next steps include humanizing the FCGR binding-compromised mAb and conducting further preclinical development.</p> <p>SciBX 6(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.501 Published online May 23, 2013</p>	<p>Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed</p>	<p>Couch, J.A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 1, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005338 Contact: Ryan J. Watts, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: rwatts@gene.com Contact: Mark S. Dennis, same affiliation as above e-mail: msd@gene.com</p>