

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Modular, noncovalent conjugate vaccines to prevent bacterial infection	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest modular, noncovalent conjugate vaccines could be useful for preventing bacterial infections. A pneumococcal peptide antigen fused to the biotin-binding protein rhizavidin was co-incubated with a biotinylated bacterial polysaccharide to form a tightly associated noncovalent complex. Mice vaccinated with the complex had better B and T cell responses and survival than controls inoculated with conventional pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. Next steps include developing a multivalent version of the vaccine targeting other bacterial antigens. GlaxoSmithKline plc's Synflorix and Pfizer Inc.'s Prevnar and Prevnar 13 pneumococcal conjugate vaccines are marketed to prevent pneumococcal disease.</p> <p>SciBX 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.979 Published online Sept. 12, 2013</p>	Method of construction of noncovalent conjugate vaccines subject to a pending patent; available for licensing	<p>Zhang, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 29, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1307228110</p> <p>Contact: Richard Malley, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: richard.malley@childrens.harvard.edu</p>