

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Crystal structure of exonuclease-resistant flavivirus RNA	<p>The crystal structure of an exonuclease-resistant flavivirus RNA could help guide the design of new therapies to treat flaviviral infections. <i>In vitro</i>, an X-ray crystal structure of an exonuclease-resistant Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus RNA revealed a ring-like conformation on one of its sides formed by nucleotides 33–49. In a human cell line, infection with MVE viral strains with point mutations that disrupt the viral RNA ring structure eliminated or decreased the formation of subgenomic flavivirus RNA—a marker of pathogenicity—compared with infection with the wild-type virus. Next steps include screening for small molecules that disrupt the activity of flavivirus RNA.</p> <p>SciBX 7(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.542 Published online May 8, 2014</p>	<p>Invention disclosure filed; available for licensing from the University of Colorado Denver Contact: David Poticha, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: david.poticha@cu.edu</p>	<p>Chapman, E.G. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online April 18, 2014; doi:10.1126/science.1250897 Contact: Jeffrey S. Kieft, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: jeffrey.kieft@ucdenver.edu</p>