This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Arg-Gly-Asp-Lys (RGDK) lipopeptide for cancer gene delivery to tumor vasculature	<p>An RGDK lipopeptide plasmid delivery system may be useful for targeting gene therapy to tumor vasculature. An RGDK lipopeptide that targets the integrin $\alpha_5\beta_1$ receptor was complexed with a p53-expressing plasmid. In mice with B16F1 melanoma tumors, the plasmid complex lowered tumor growth compared with that seen in mice that received a complex containing a control lipopeptide, an uncomplexed RGDK lipopeptide or 5% aqueous glucose solution. Next steps include evaluating the systemic potential of the RGDK lipopeptide in additional preclinical models.</p> <p>Volociximab, an antibody against integrin $\alpha_5\beta_1$ from PDL BioPharma Inc. and Biogen Idec Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1007 Published online Nov. 13, 2008</p>	Indian, U.S. and patent cooperation treaty patents filed covering the research; available for licensing from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology's Business Management Division	<p>Pramanik, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 28, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm800915y Contact: Arabinda Chaudhuri, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, India e-mail: arabinda@iict.res.in</p>