This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Substance P-based intracellular delivery of protein therapeutics	Conjugates consisting of a bioactive reagent and an engineered variant of substance P could provide a tool to selectively deliver therapeutics to tumors. Substance P was modified on its N-terminus to allow conjugation to a therapeutic protein, leaving the C-terminus free to bind neurokinin 1 (NK1) substance P receptor (TACR1), an endogenous receptor of substance P expressed on glioma, breast, colon and other cancer cells. Conjugates containing actin-binding antibody fragments penetrated TACR1-expressing human glioblastoma cells, altered cell morphology and reduced cell survival. Next steps could include testing the conjugates in animal models of cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Rizk, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 22, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904907106 Contact: Anthony A. Kossiakoff, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: koss@bsd.uchicago.edu
	SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1061 Published online July 9, 2009		