This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Virus-like particles for targeted gene delivery to integrin $\alpha_v\beta_3$ -expressing tumors	Virus-like particles could be useful for delivering gene therapies to integrin $\alpha_v\beta_3$ -expressing tumors. The particles consisted of four components: a lipid membrane, an integrin-targeting peptide, a small molecule agent to burst open the particle inside the tumor cell and a plasmid containing the delivered gene. In integrin $\alpha_v\beta_3$ -expressing primary human endothelial cells, gene delivery using the virus-like particles was enhanced compared to delivery by particles lacking the integrin-targeting peptide or the small molecule agent. Ongoing work includes investigating the particles' potential as DNA vaccines.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Zuber, G. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i> ; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp900105q Contact: Guy Zuber, University of Strasbourg, Illkirch, France e-mail: zuber@bioorga.u-strasbg.fr
	SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1294 Published online Aug. 27, 2009		