This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Dendritic cell (DC)-specific delivery of small interfering RNAs with immunoliposomes (siLLs)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that DC-targeted delivery of liposomes containing CD40 siRNA could be useful for dampening the immune response in autoimmune disease. CD40-deficient DCs have been shown to induce immune tolerance. In cultured bone marrow-derived DCs, injection of DC-targeted CD40 siLLs dose-dependently silenced CD40 compared with the effects of control siLLs. In mice, injection of the DC-targeted CD40 siLLs decreased CD40 expression on DCs compared with the effects of control naked siRNA. Further studies are necessary to perform GMP production of the targeted nanoparticle technology prior to IND filing, which is planned for the next 6–12 months. Companies including Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc., Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc., Regulus Therapeutics LLC and Merck & Co. Inc.'s Sirna Therapeutics Inc. subsidiary are developing siRNA delivery platforms. <i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.210 Published online Feb. 5, 2009	Provisional patents filed covering the technology; ToleroTech Inc. and Lawson Health Research Institute each own some of the intellectual property; available for licensing and/or co-development Contact: Thomas Ichim, ToleroTech Inc., London, Ontario, Canada phone: 858-642-0027	Zheng, X. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Jan. 22, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-04-151191 Contact: Wei-Ping Min, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada e-mail: weiping.min@uwo.ca