This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
High stability, pH-responsive small interfering RNA-polymer conjugate for <i>in vivo</i> applications	<p>A pH-responsive, endosomolytic siRNA-polymer conjugate could be useful for increasing the extracellular stability and effectiveness of siRNA. The conjugate consisted of polylysine (PLL)-bound RNA, polyethylene glycol (PEG) and the endosomolytic peptide melittin, which is released at endosomal pH levels. <i>In vitro</i>, the conjugate was stable in the presence of the anticoagulant heparin and displayed favorable biocompatibility and bioactivity. However, i.v. and intratumoral administration of the conjugate in mice showed high levels of toxicity. Next steps include developing a better nontoxic formulation of the conjugate.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.642 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Not applicable; unavailable for licensing	<p>Meyer, M. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online April 6, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp9000124</p> <p>Contact: Ernst Wagner, Ludwig Maximillians University, Munchen, Germany e-mail: ernst.wagner@cup.uni-muenchen.de</p>