This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Dry hybrid lipid-silica microcapsules for delivery of poorly soluble drugs	<p>Dry hybrid lipid-silica microcapsules could be useful for the delivery of poorly soluble drugs. In proof-of-concept experiments, the microcapsules were loaded with indomethacin. In fasted rats, oral treatment with indomethacin-loaded microcapsules significantly increased bioavailability of the drug compared with that seen using an aqueous suspension or an oil-in-water emulsion ($p < 0.05$). The microcapsule formulation used low surfactant concentrations, which decreased the risk of surfactant-associated side effects. Next steps include ongoing pharmacokinetic and efficacy studies and testing the microencapsulation approach with other poorly soluble drugs. Clinical studies are planned for 4Q09 or 1H10.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.681 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Microcapsules covered by issued and pending patents; available for licensing from ITEK Pty. Ltd.	<p>Prestidge, C.A. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online April 9, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp900063t</p> <p>Contact: Clive A. Prestidge, University of South Australia, Mawson Lakes, Australia e-mail: clive.prestidge@unisa.edu.au</p>