This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Fusion protein-mediated small interfering RNA delivery	A fusion protein construct could be useful for delivering siRNA into cells. One portion of the construct shielded siRNA from extracellular degradation, whereas the second portion helped mediate uptake of the siRNA by cells. <i>In vitro</i>, delivery of siRNA using the construct induced rapid RNAi in various cell types, including T cells, human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) and embryonic stem cells. In mice expressing luciferase in nasal and tracheal passages, fusion protein-mediated delivery of luciferase siRNA, compared with saline control, decreased luciferase expression. Next steps include additional <i>in vivo</i> studies to further investigate the construct's mechanism of siRNA delivery. SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.892 Published online May 28, 2009	Patent application filed; exclusively licensed to Traversa Therapeutics Inc.	Eguchi, A. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online May 17, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1541 Contact: Steven F. Dowdy, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: sdowdy@ucsd.edu