This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
C-terminus-specific polymer conjugation to improve the pharmacokinetics of therapeutic proteins	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that C-terminus-specific linkage of polymer conjugates to proteins could help improve stability, solubility and tissue distribution. As proof of concept, GFP was modified by the conjugation of a poly(oligo(ethylene glycol) methyl methacrylate) (poly(OEGMA)) polymer to its C-terminus. In mice, the modified GFP had a longer half-life and better tissue distribution than unmodified GFP. Next steps include applying the approach to a therapeutic protein.</p> <p>SciBX 3(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1076 Published online Sept. 9, 2010</p>	Patent application filed covering method; available for licensing	<p>Gao, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 30, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006044107</p> <p>Contact: Ashutosh Chilkoti, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: chilkoti@duke.edu</p>