This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Polyunsaturated endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-targeting liposomes (PERLs) as antivirals	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that PERLs could be useful broad-spectrum antivirals. In cell lines, PERLs led to lower levels of cholesterol, a host cell component known to be important in the life cycle of many viruses, than the cholesterol-lowering agent lovastatin. In virus-infected cells, PERLs led to less secretion and infectivity of HCV and HBV than lovastatin. Next steps include further preclinical efficacy and safety testing of empty and antiviral-loaded PERLs. The generic lovastatin is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor marketed to treat dyslipidemia and coronary artery disease (CAD). SciBX 3(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1195 Published online Oct. 7, 2010	Patent status undisclosed; for licensing status contact United Therapeutics Corp.	Pollock, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 20, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1009445107 Contact: Nicole Zitzmann, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: nicole.zitzmann@bioch.ox.ac.uk