This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Nanoparticles for lung-mediated drug delivery	<p>A study in rats identified nanoparticles that could be useful for delivering therapeutics across the lung into systemic circulation. In rats, nanoparticles with a hydrodynamic diameter of less than 34 nm and a negative or neutral charge translocated from the lung into the lymph nodes and bloodstream. Also in rats, nanoparticles with both a positive and a negative charge and a hydrodynamic diameter of less than 6 nm moved from the lung into the bloodstream and were cleared by renal filtration. Next steps include studying nanoparticle biodistribution over longer times and characterizing drug-conjugated nanoparticles in animals.</p> <p>SciBX 3(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1337 Published online Nov. 11, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Choi, H.S. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Nov. 7, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1696 Contact: Akira Tsuda, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass. e-mail: atsuda@hsph.harvard.edu Contact: John V. Frangioni, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jfrangio@bidmc.harvard.edu</p>