This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic gene therapy delivered by adeno-associated virus serotype 2 (AAV2) vector in patients with pre-existing AAV2 immunity	<p>Studies in large mammals suggest that AAV2-based gene therapies could safely treat ophthalmic disorders in patients with pre-existing AAV2 immunity. In AAV2-naïve canine models of congenital blindness, subretinal injection in one eye of an AAV2-based gene therapy improved vision compared with baseline. Treatment of the same animal's other eye induced mild inflammatory responses that did not impair the therapy's effectiveness. In normal monkeys with previous AAV2 exposure, the therapy induced only mild immunological responses, comparable to those seen in the dogs. Ongoing work includes testing immunological responses when the therapy is re-administered to the same eye.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.324 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Amado, D. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 3, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000659</p> <p>Contact: Jean Bennett, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: jebennet@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>