This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Improved antisense oligonucleotide chemistry	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that aminooxy-modified nucleic acids could be useful antisense therapeutics. In cell culture, antisense oligonucleotides containing aminooxy-modified nucleic acids were better at reducing levels of target mRNA than a conventional antisense oligonucleotide control. In mice, the compounds were well tolerated and were more effective at knocking down liver expression of a target mRNA than the same oligonucleotide control. Next steps include further optimization to reduce proinflammatory activity by the compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.326 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing from Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc.	<p>Prakash, T.P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Jan. 28, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm9013295</p> <p>Contact: Thazha P. Prakash, Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc., Carlsbad, Calif. e-mail: tprakash@isisph.com</p>