This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Monocyte delivery of protein therapeutics to the brain	<p>A study in mice suggests that peripheral monocytes could be useful for delivering therapeutics to treat brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease (AD). Bone marrow monocytes were isolated and transfected with a transgene encoding neprilysin, a protease that digests AD-associated β-amyloid ($A\beta$) peptides. In a mouse model of AD, peripherally infused monocytes expressing neprilysin migrated to $A\beta$ plaque sites in the brain and reduced further $A\beta$ deposition compared with monocytes expressing an inactive form of neprilysin. Next steps include testing the effect of administering other monocyte-delivered therapeutic proteins in mouse models of AD and other neurological disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 3(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.968 Published online Aug. 12, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Lebson, L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online July 21, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0329-10.2010</p> <p>Contact: Dave Morgan, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla. e-mail: scientist.dave@gmail.com</p>