This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Skin-penetrating peptide for delivering small interfering RNA across the skin	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a skin-penetrating peptide that could help deliver siRNA to treat dermatological diseases. A phage display screen in <i>ex vivo</i> porcine skin samples identified peptides that penetrated the skin and localized in the dermis. In <i>ex vivo</i> human skin samples, the best peptide localized in the dermis, whereas a control peptide did not. In mice, topical application of the same peptide linked to siRNA against <i>IL-10</i> lowered levels of the protein in the skin compared with application of peptide or siRNA alone. Next steps include testing the peptide-siRNA conjugates in animal models of dermatological diseases.	Findings patented; available for licensing	Hsu, T. & Mitragotri, S. <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 8, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1016152108 Contact: Samir Mitragotri, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. e-mail: samir@engineering.ucsb.edu
	SciBX 4(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1026 Published online Sept. 15, 2011		