This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Folic acid-coated nanoparticles for gene therapy	Folic acid-coated nanoparticles could help increase the safety and efficacy of gene therapy. Polyethylenimine-plasmid DNA complexes were coated with folic acid for targeting to cells that express folate receptors. In a folate receptor-positive mouse cell line, the targeted nanoparticles caused greater expression of the plasmid-encoded transgene and had lower cytotoxicity than nontargeted nanoparticles ($p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.05$, respectively). Next steps include evaluating the approach in animal disease models. <i>SciBX</i> 4(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.639 Published online June 2, 2011	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Kurosaki, T. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i> ; published online May 10, 2011; doi:10.1021/mp2001268 Contact: Takashi Kitahara, Nagasaki University Hospital, Nagasaki, Japan e-mail: kitappy@nagasaki-u.ac.jp