This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Adeno-associated virus serotype 8 (AAV8) for delivery of retinal gene therapy to treat blindness	<p>Nonhuman primate studies suggest AAV8 vectors can deliver gene therapies to the retina to treat blindness more efficiently than the AAV2 vector. In nonhuman primates, subretinal injections of AAV8 expressing a fluorescence marker resulted in higher levels of fluorescent protein expression in the retinal pigment epithelium, photoreceptor rods and photoreceptor cones than injections of AAV2. Future studies could include using AAV8 vectors to deliver subretinal gene therapy in nonhuman primate models of blindness.</p> <p>rAAV2-CB-rhRPE65, an AAV2 vector expressing <i>retinal pigment epithelium-specific protein 65 kDa (RPE65)</i> from Applied Genetic Technologies Corp., is in Phase I/II testing to treat Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA).</p> <p>SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.775 Published online July 14, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Vandenberghe, L.H. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online June 22, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002103 Contact: Jean Bennett, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: jebennet@mail.med.upenn.edu Contact: Luk H. Vandenberghe, same affiliation as above e-mail: lucv@upenn.edu Contact: James M. Wilson, same affiliation as above e-mail: wilsonjm@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>