This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Liposomal formulation of saxitoxin and dexamethasone to delay neuropathic pain	<p>Studies in rats suggest a liposomal formulation of the sodium channel blocker saxitoxin and the glucocorticoid agonist dexamethasone could delay neuropathic pain. In a spared nerve injury rat model, three sequential injections of the saxitoxin and dexamethasone liposomal formulations increased mechanical and thermal withdrawal threshold compared with no treatment. Next steps could include technically refining the method and testing the formulation in large animal studies.</p> <p>SciBX 5(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1095 Published online Oct. 18, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Shankarappa, S.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 8, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1214634109 Contact: Daniel S. Kohane, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: daniel.kohane@childrens.harvard.edu Contact: Robert Langer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: rlanger@mit.edu</p>