This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Targeted RNA import to correct diseases caused by mitochondrial mutations	<p>A sequence that targets RNA molecules to mitochondria could help generate compounds to treat mitochondrial diseases. Disease-causing mutations in the mitochondrial genome are difficult to correct by gene therapy because many mitochondrial RNAs are not properly imported into the mitochondria from the nucleus. To solve this problem, extra sequences were engineered into mitochondrial RNAs, allowing them to enter mitochondria. In two model cell lines of diseases caused by mutations in mitochondrial tRNAs, transfection of mitochondrial tRNAs expressing the extra sequences rescued mitochondrial tRNA function. Next steps include testing the approach in an animal model of mitochondrial disease.</p> <p>SciBX 5(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.320 Published online March 22, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Wang, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 12, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1116792109 Contact: Carla M. Koehler University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: koehlerc@chem.ucla.edu Contact: Michael A. Teitell, same affiliation as above e-mail: mteitell@mednet.ucla.edu</p>