This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Targeted delivery of small interfering RNA using single-chain variable antibody fragments (scFvs)	<p>Studies in mice suggest scFv-mediated delivery of siRNA could help treat cancer. In an orthotopic xenograft mouse model of HER2⁺ (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu) breast cancer, i.v. injection of a polo-like kinase 1 (PLK1; STPK13) siRNA complexed with an anti-HER2 scFv-protamine fusion protein decreased tumor growth compared with injection of PLK1 siRNA alone. In a xenograft mouse model of metastatic cancer, the complexed siRNA increased survival of animals with HER2⁺ cancer compared with siRNA or scFv alone. Next steps could include applying the platform to the delivery of additional siRNA therapeutics.</p> <p>SciBX 5(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.477 Published online May 3, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; nonexclusively licensed to Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc.; available for licensing	<p>Yao, Y.-d. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 18, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003601 Contact: Erwei Song, Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital, Guangzhou, China e-mail: songerwei02@yahoo.com.cn Contact: Jun Wang, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China e-mail: jwang699@ustc.edu.cn Contact: Judy Lieberman, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Mass. e-mail: lieberman@idi.harvard.edu</p>