This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Anandamide–small interfering RNA conjugates for targeting neuronal and immune cells	Anandamide-siRNA conjugates that silence gene expression in neuronal and immune cells could be useful for treating immunological and neurological diseases. The conjugates were generated by linking alkyne-modified RNA with 3'-anandamide and produced at high yield and purity. In a rat basophilic leukemia cell line that models neuronal cells and astrocytes, the anandamide-siRNA conjugates decreased expression of a targeted gene compared with unmodified RNA duplexes and anandamide-modified scrambled siRNA. Next steps could include determining the tissue distribution of the anandamide-siRNA conjugates in animal models. <i>SciBX</i> 5(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.912 Published online Aug. 30, 2012	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Willibald, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online July 19, 2012; doi:10.1021/ja303251f Contact: Thomas Carell, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: thomas.carell@cup.uni-muenchen.de