This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Short RNA delivery by engineered B cells	<p>A study in cell culture and mice suggests engineered B cells could be used to deliver therapeutic short RNAs to other immune cells. Murine B cells were harvested and transfected with a plasmid encoding an antisense RNA sequence against microRNA-150 (miR-150), which regulates T cell development. In mice, autologous transplantation of transfected B cells engineered to secrete anti-miR-150 led to knockdown of miR-150 activity in T cells. Next steps include characterizing the functional effects of miR-150 knockdown in mouse models of cancer and inflammatory disease.</p> <p>SciBX 6(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1365 Published online Dec. 12, 2013</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Almanza, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1311145110</p> <p>Contact: Maurizio Zanetti, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: mzanetti@ucsd.edu</p>