This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
pH (low) insertion peptides (pHLIPs) for drug delivery to ischemic myocardium	<p>pHLIPs could be useful for delivering imaging agents or therapeutics to ischemic regions of the heart that have lower pH values than nonischemic regions. pHLIPs are water-soluble polypeptides derived from the bacteriorhodopsin C helix. In mice with ischemia in different regions of the heart, injection of dye-conjugated pHLIPs increased fluorescence signal in ischemic regions compared with nonischemic regions. In isolated mouse hearts subjected to ischemia, dye-loaded pHLIP-coated liposomes increased fluorescence signal compared with that in nonischemic hearts. Next steps include evaluating the pHLIP technology to deliver imaging and therapeutic agents in additional models of ischemia.</p> <p>SciBX 6(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.44 Published online Jan. 17, 2013</p>	<p>Covered by multiple issued and pending patents; use of radionuclide-labeled pHLIPs as a diagnostic tool for imaging of acidic tissues licensed to General Electric Co.; other diagnostic applications and all therapeutic applications available for licensing</p>	<p>Sosunov, E.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1220038110 Contact: Oleg A. Andreev, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. e-mail: andreev@mail.uri.edu Contact: Donald M. Engelman, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: donald.engelman@yale.edu</p>