This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Transcription activator-like effector nucleases (TALENs) to eliminate mitochondria-specific mutant DNA	TALENs could be useful for treating mitochondrial disease by selectively removing mutant mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). In cells with a pathogenic point-of-deletion mutation in mtDNA, transient transfection of plasmids expressing mitochondria-targeted TALENs decreased levels of the mutant but not wild-type mtDNA. Next steps include developing efficient TALEN delivery strategies and testing the method in mouse models of mitochondrial disease.	Patenting status undisclosed; licensing details available from the University of Miami	Bacman, S.R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3261 Contact: Carlos T. Moraes, University of Miami, Miami, Fla. e-mail: cmoraes@med.miami.edu
SciBX 6(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.944 Published online Sept. 5, 2013			