This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Cyclodextrin encapsulation of hydrophobic drugs to enable liposome loading	<p>Pre-encapsulation of hydrophobic drugs in cyclodextrin could improve delivery by enabling loading into liposomes. Hydrophobic drugs encapsulated in cyclodextrin, which has a hydrophobic core and hydrophilic exterior, increased drug loading into liposomes compared with hydrophobic drugs that were not encapsulated. In mouse colon cancer xenograft models, injection of liposomes loaded with encapsulated hydrophobic cancer drugs decreased tumor growth compared with empty liposomes or free drug without adverse effects. The cancer drugs had previously failed clinical testing because of toxicity issues. Next steps could include testing the platform with additional cancer therapeutics.</p> <p>SciBX 7(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.237 Published online Feb. 27, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Sur, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 28, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1324135111</p> <p>Contact: Bert Vogelstein, The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: bertvog@gmail.com</p>