This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
HIV genome excision from host cells using guide RNA (gRNA)-directed Cas9 genome editing	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest gRNA-directed Cas9 genome editing could help treat HIV. In human microglia, perivascular macrophages and T cells latently infected with HIV, transfection with Cas9 plus gRNA that targets an HIV-1 long terminal repeat caused excision of proviral DNA and prevented reactivation of the latent virus. In HeLa-derived cells, the gRNA and Cas9 combination protected against infection with a new HIV clone without off-target effects. Next steps could include testing the approach in animal models of infection.</p> <p>SciBX 7(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.968 Published online Aug. 21, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hu, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 21, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1405186111 Contact: Kamel Khalili, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: kamel.khalili@temple.edu</p>