This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Fusion protein for drug delivery across the blood-brain barrier (BBB)	An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that linking paraoxonase 1 (PON1) to a mAb that targets and crosses the BBB could result in a treatment for neural toxicity following exposure to pesticides and nerve gas agents. PON1 is a serum esterase that inactivates organophosphate toxins. However, the enzyme cannot cross the BBB. An <i>in vitro</i> assay showed that linking PON1 to a mAb targeting the BBB insulin receptor preserved the enzyme's organophosphatase activity, suggesting that the fusion protein would have activity <i>in vivo</i> . Next steps include engineering a permanently transfected host cell line capable of producing large amounts of the fusion protein and testing the construct in animals. SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1008 Published online Nov. 13, 2008	ArmaGen Technologies Inc. owns and is developing the fusion construct under the name AGT-185	Boado, R. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i> ; published online Oct. 16, 2008; doi:10.1021/mp800113g Contact: William M. Pardridge, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: wpardridge@mednet.ucla.edu