

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Perfluorocarbon nanoparticles for delivery of peptides to cell membranes	An <i>in vitro</i> study shows that perfluorocarbon nanoparticles could be useful for delivering cytolytic peptides to tumor cells. Perfluorocarbon nanoparticles bound melittin with a dissociation constant of about 3.27 nM and delivered the peptide to model bilayer membranes. Melittin is a cytolytic peptide derived from honeybee venom that forms pores in membranes and causes cell lysis. The peptide retained its pore-forming activity after delivery. Next steps include developing melittin-loaded nanoparticles for specific targets and specifying their delivery pathways.	Patent application filed in the U.S. for melittin-loaded nanoparticles for all applications; Kereos Inc. holds a worldwide license to the targeted nanoparticles; the nontargeted nanoparticles are available for licensing	Soman, N. <i>et al. Nano Lett.</i> ; published online Feb. 27, 2008; doi:10.1021/nl073290r Contact: Samuel A. Wickline, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: saw@wuphys.wustl.edu Contact: Paul H. Schlesinger, same affiliation as above e-mail: paul@cellbiology.wustl.edu