This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Subcellular delivery of Alzheimer's disease (AD) therapeutics	Studies in cell culture and mice suggest that membrane anchoring of AD therapeutics could improve efficacy compared with that of soluble AD therapeutics. In cell culture, a peptide inhibitor of β-secretase conjugated to a sterol membrane anchor had higher inhibitory activity and endosomal localization than those seen in a soluble version of the peptide. In a mouse model of AD, mice treated with the sterol-linked inhibitor had significantly lower hippocampal β-amyloid (Aβ) levels than those in mice that received free inhibitor or dimethyl sulfoxide control solvent ($p<0.01$). Next steps include testing whether the sterol-linked inhibitor crosses the blood-brain barrier and decreases disease progression in mice more effectively than do unanchored inhibitors.	Patented by the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics and by the Technical University of Dresden; licensed to JADO Technologies GmbH	Rajendran, L. *et al. Science*; published online April 25, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1156609 **Contact**: Kai Simons, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden, Germany e-mail: simons@mpi-cbg.de