## This week in techniques

| Approach | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Drug delivery** | | | |
| Self-assembled artificial viruses for drug delivery | An artificial filamentous viral assembly could offer improved bioavailability compared with that of conventional carriers for delivery of gene therapy or encapsulated molecules. As proof of concept, the viral assembly transfected HeLa cells with GFP short interfering RNA with efficiency comparable to that of Lipofectamine 2000 (LF2000), an RNA transfection reagent marketed by Invitrogen Corp. The viral assembly also delivered molecules of the dye Nile red to both the cytoplasm and nucleus of the HeLa cells. Next steps include refining the technique to incorporate additional functional properties of natural virions into the artificial ones, such as endosome escape, efficient cell binding, nucleus localization and tissue targeting. | Not patented; licensing status not applicable | Lim, Y.-B. *et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*; published online May 7, 2008; doi:10.1002/anie.200800266<br>**Contact:** Myongsoo Lee, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea<br>e-mail: mslee@yonsei.ac.kr |