

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Delivery of low-molecular weight therapeutics to the retina	<p>RNAi-mediated suppression of the tight junction protein claudin-5 could improve delivery of therapeutics across the blood retina barrier (BRB) and into the retina. In mice, local injection of claudin-5 small interfering RNA caused a transient increase in BRB permeability to low-molecular weight compounds compared with injection of control siRNA. Also in mice, claudin-5 siRNA pretreatment led to improved delivery of a calpain inhibitor to the retina compared with scrambled control siRNA pretreatment. Next steps include expressing the claudin-5 siRNA in an adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector that can infect endothelial cells in the human retina.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1549 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	<p>Patents pending covering the technology; available for licensing Contact: Emily Vereker, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland phone: +1 353 1 896-4152 e-mail: emily.vereker@tcd.ie</p>	<p>Campbell, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 12, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0908561106 Contact: Matthew Campbell, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: matthew.campbell@tcd.ie</p>