This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Mucus-penetrating biodegradable polymer nanoparticles	<p>Mucus-penetrating nanoparticles could help deliver therapeutics that otherwise have limited efficacy in the presence of a mucosal barrier. The biodegradable nanoparticles consisted of poly(sebacic acid) and polyethylene glycol (PEG). In human cervicovaginal mucus samples, the co-polymer nanoparticles diffused 275 times more quickly than similarly sized nanoparticles made of other polymers. In sputum samples from patients with cystic fibrosis (CF), about 40% of the mucus-penetrating nanoparticles were transported via diffusion compared with 3% of a standard polystyrene control nanoparticle. Next steps could include evaluating the feasibility of using the nanoparticles to deliver therapeutics.</p> <p>SciBX 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1714 Published online Dec. 3, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Tang, B.C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 9, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905998106</p> <p>Contact: Justin Hanes, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: hanes@jhu.edu</p>