This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Prodrug liposomes formulated for site-specific, <i>in vivo</i> activation	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that prodrugs formulated as liposomes could be useful for site-specific delivery of prodrugs. A capsaicin prodrug was covalently attached to a phospholipid to form liposomes. Exposure to secretory phospholipase A₂ (PLA₂G2A; sPLA₂), a lipid-cleaving enzyme that is overproduced by many tumors, led to cleavage and liberation of capsaicin, a cancer therapeutic. Next steps include testing the lipase-activated liposomes in mouse models of cancer, and making sPLA₂-activatable derivatives of other cancer compounds.</p> <p>LiPlasome Pharma A/S's LiPlaCis, a liposomal formulation of cisplatin, is in a Phase I trial for an undisclosed cancer indication.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.250 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patented and licensed to LiPlasome Pharma	<p>Linderoth, L. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online Feb.5, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200805241</p> <p>Contact: Thomas L. Andresen, Technical University of Denmark, Roskilde, Denmark e-mail: thomas.andresen@nanotech.dtu.dk</p>