SciBX
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## This week in techniques

| Approach | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Drug delivery** | | | |
| pH-sensitive, pegylated nanoparticles for small interfering RNA delivery | pH-sensitive, pegylated nanoparticles containing siRNA could be useful for treating a variety of conditions. As proof of concept, nanoparticles were loaded with siRNAs targeting the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and coupled to polyethylene glycol (PEG) via a pH-sensitive linker, which enabled liver-specific release of the siRNA payload. In a mouse model of chronic HBV infection, the nanoparticles significantly lowered serum HBsAg and virion concentrations compared with nanoparticles containing nonfunctional siRNA ($p<0.05$). Next steps include further modifying the nanoparticle and HBsAg-targeting siRNAs to increase potency.<br><br>*SciBX* 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.338<br>Published online Feb. 26, 2009 | Multiple patents filed covering delivery technology; available for licensing<br>**Contact:** Andrew D. Miller, Imperial College London, London, U.K.<br>e-mail: a.miller@imperial.ac.uk | Carmona, S. *et al. Mol. Pharm.*; published online Jan. 21, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp800157x<br>**Contact:** Andrew D. Miller, Imperial College London, London, U.K.<br>e-mail: a.miller@imperial.ac.uk<br>**Contact:** Patrick Arbuthnot, University of the Witwatersrand Medical School, WITS, South Africa<br>e-mail: patrick.arbuthnot@wits.ac.za |