

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Striated muscle-specific adeno-associated viral (AAV) vectors for targeted gene delivery	<p>A study in hamsters identified an AAV vector (AAVM41) that may be useful for delivering genes to cardiac tissue to treat cardiovascular disorders. In a hamster model of cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure, the AAVM41 vector delivered the γ-sarcoglycan gene to myocardial muscles and rescued cardiac functions. AAVM41 also had less off-target gene transfer to liver tissue than a previous-generation vector (AAV9). Next steps include evaluating the safety and efficacy of the AAVM41 vector with additional genes in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.339 Published online Feb. 26, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering multiple AAV vectors, including AAVM41, and their use in cardiovascular and musculoskeletal indications; available for licensing from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Office of Technology Development</p>	<p>Yang, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813207106 Contact: Xiao Xiao, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: xxiao@email.unc.edu</p>