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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Stable nucleic acid lipid particles (SNALPs) for small interfering RNA delivery	Studies *in vitro* and in mice suggest that SNALP-mediated siRNA delivery could help avoid adverse immune responses associated with naked siRNA delivery. *In vitro* assays showed that SNALP-mediated delivery of siRNA and delivery of naked siRNA against the cell cycle–regulating gene *polo-like kinase 1* (*PLK1*) decreased cancer cell viability. However, the latter approach induced an innate immune response, whereas the former did not. In mice with hepatic cancer, i.v. injection of SNALP-formulated siRNA led to tumor cell apoptosis and prolonged survival without a measurable immune response. Next steps include finalizing a clinical formulation of SNALP and toxicology studies. At least seven companies have compounds targeting PLK1 in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancer. *SciBX* 2(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.385 Published online March 5, 2009	PLK1 SNALPs covered by several issued and pending patents; Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corp. has a PLK1 product and partner Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc. has an option to co-develop and co-commercialize PLK1 SNALPs; Tekmira has granted several licenses of the SNALP technology	Judge, A. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online Feb. 23, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI37515 **Contact:** Ian MacLachlan, Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corp., Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: imaclachlan@tekmirapharm.com