This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Cell type–specific lentiviral vectors	Cell type–specific lentiviral vectors could help improve the safety and specificity of gene therapy. Researchers generated lentiviral vectors specific for endothelial cells, hematopoietic progenitor cells and subtypes of neuronal cells. In mixed cell cultures, each cell-specific lentiviral vector transduced its target cell population with higher specificity than a control lentiviral vector. In mice, injection of neuron-specific lentiviral vectors into the striatum and hippocampus resulted in transduction of neurons, whereas injection of a control lentiviral vector nonselectively transduced both neurons and glial cells. Next steps include comparing the safety and transduction efficiency of systemically delivered cell type–specific vectors with currently available vectors in mouse models.	Patent application filed covering technology; available for licensing from ipal GmbH	Anliker, B. *et al. Nat. Methods*; published online Oct. 10, 2010; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1514 **Contact:** Christian J. Buchholz, Division of Medical Biotechnology, Paul Ehrlich Institute, Langen, Germany e-mail: bucch@pei.de

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