

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Silica-lipid microcapsules for drug delivery	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that silica-lipid microcapsules could help increase oral absorption of poorly soluble drugs. In rats, the plasma concentration of microcapsule-delivered Celebrex celecoxib was higher than the concentrations of the drug when delivered as a lipid solution or submicron lipid emulsion. Next steps include designing clinical trials to test the delivery vehicle in undisclosed indications.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc. market Celebrex to treat autoimmune conditions and pain.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.170 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Four patent applications filed for delivery platform; available for drug delivery and other applications	Tan, A. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i> ; published online Jan. 11, 2010; doi:10.1021/mp9002442 Contact: Clive A. Prestidge, University of South Australia, Mawson Lakes, South Australia, Australia e-mail: clive.prestidge@unisa.edu.au