This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Tetra(piperazino) fullerene epoxide (TPFE)-based gene delivery	<p>Studies in mice suggest that TPFE could be used as a gene-delivery vehicle. In pregnant mice, TPFE-based delivery of <i>enhanced green fluorescence protein (Egfp)</i> caused 2–3 times higher levels of Egfp DNA in the liver and spleen than Lipofectin-based delivery. In female mice, TPFE delivery of <i>insulin 2</i> led to insulin expression in the lung, liver and spleen, which increased plasma insulin levels and decreased blood glucose compared with those resulting from mock treatment. Next steps could include using TPFE to deliver genes to specific tissues.</p> <p>SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.325 Published online March 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Maeda-Mamiya, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 22, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0909223107 Contact: Eiichi Nakamura, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: nakamura@chem.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp Contact: Eisei Noiri, same affiliation as above e-mail: noiri-ty@umin.ac.jp</p>