This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Peptide blood brain barrier (BBB) shuttles	<p>An SAR study identified phenylalanine-rich peptides that could be used to deliver therapies to the CNS. In noncellular and cell culture models of the BBB, <i>N</i>-methyl-phenylalanine-rich peptides coupled to model neuroactive small molecule compounds crossed the BBB more effectively than free molecules. Next steps could include testing the peptides in <i>in vivo</i> BBB models.</p> <p>Companies developing BBB-penetrating drug delivery platforms include ArmaGen Technologies and AngioChem Inc.</p> <p>SciBX 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.357 Published online March 18, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Malakoutikhan, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 19, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901654x</p> <p>Contact: Ernest Giralt, Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: ernest.giralt@irbbarcelona.org</p>