This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Fusion protein for targeted delivery of cancer therapeutics	An engineered fusion protein could help improve the specificity of chemotherapy. The fusion protein consisted of a domain that bound cancer-associated hypoxia-inducible factor 1α (HIF1A; HIF1α) as well as yeast cytosine deaminase, which converted the prodrug 5-fluorocytosine (5-FC) to the chemotherapeutic 5-fluorouracil (5-FU). In human colorectal and breast cancer cell lines, the fusion protein increased activity of HIF1α, which in turn increased cellular sensitivity to 5-FC compared with normal oxygen conditions. Next steps include evaluating the fusion protein in mice.	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Wright, C.M. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Sept. 19, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1102803108 **Contact:** Marc Ostermeier, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: oster@jhu.edu

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