

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Chemically modified mRNA to induce expression of therapeutic proteins	Chemically modified mRNA could induce the expression of therapeutic proteins. In healthy mice, intramuscular injection of modified erythropoietin (Epo) mRNA increased Epo expression and hematocrit compared with injection of unmodified mRNA or no treatment. In a mouse model of congenital surfactant protein B (Sftpb; Sp-b) deficiency, inhalation of modified Sftpb mRNA decreased respiratory failure and increased survival compared with inhalation of control mRNA. Ongoing work includes applying the technology to regenerative medicine and to an undisclosed metabolic disorder. <i>SciBX</i> 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.145 Published online Feb. 3, 2011	Patented by Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich; licensed to ethris GmbH	Kormann, M.S.D. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Jan. 9, 2011; doi:10.1038/nbt.1733 Contact: Carsten Rudolph, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: carsten.rudolph@med.uni-muenchen.de Contact: Michael S.D. Kormann, University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany; e-mail: michael.kormann@med.uni-tuebingen.de