This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Targeted exosomes for delivery of RNA to the CNS	<p>Targeted exosomes could be useful for delivering RNA-based therapeutics to the CNS. Immature mouse dendritic cells (DCs) were engineered to express <i>lysosomal-associated membrane protein 2</i> (<i>Lamp2</i>; <i>Lamp-2b</i>) fused with a neuron-targeting peptide. Exosomes produced by the DCs then were purified and loaded with small interfering RNA using electroporation. In two proof-of-concept studies in wild-type mice, tail vein injection with siRNA-loaded exosomes resulted in significant neuron-specific knockdown of mRNA and proteins encoded by target genes compared with no treatment ($p < 0.01$). Next steps include improving the exosome targeting method and the efficiency of exosome loading.</p> <p>SciBX 4(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.382 Published online March 31, 2011</p>	<p>Two patents pending covering methods for loading and targeting exosomes; available for licensing from Isis Innovation Ltd. Contact: Andy Self, Isis Innovation Ltd., Oxford, U.K. phone: +44 (0)1865 614422 e-mail: andy.self@isis.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Alvarez-Erviti, L. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online March 20, 2011; doi:10.1038/nbt.1807 Contact: Matthew J.A. Wood, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk</p>