

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Light-inducible protein expression	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a method for light-induced protein transcription could help improve therapeutic protein dosing. Human cells expressing a modified photoprotein designed to induce transcription of a target promoter produced glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) upon light exposure. In diabetic mice implanted with light-inducible cells, light exposure increased glucose tolerance compared with no light exposure. Next steps include validating the cells and the process.</p> <p>SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.778 Published online July 14, 2011</p>	Unpatented; technology freely available for further development	<p>Ye, H. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online June 24, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1203535</p> <p>Contact: Martin Fussenegger, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Basel, Switzerland e-mail: fussenegger@bsse.ethz.ch</p>