This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Transferrin-mimicking peptide for delivery of brain cancer therapeutics or imaging agents	<p>A transferrin-mimicking peptide could be useful for delivering therapeutic and imaging agents to brain tumors. In a mouse model of glioblastoma, a transferrin-mimicking peptide crossed the blood brain barrier and accumulated preferentially in tumors compared with in healthy brain tissue. Also in the mouse model, an adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector expressing the peptide and payload decreased tumor growth compared with the same vector not expressing the peptide. Ongoing studies include using the peptide for selective delivery of small interfering RNA, nanoparticles and other therapeutic and imaging agents to brain tumors.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.87 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	<p>Patented by The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; licensed to Mercator Therapeutics Inc.</p>	<p>Staquicini, F.I. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 22, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI44798 Contact: Renata Pasqualini, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rpasqual@mdanderson.org Contact: Wadih Arap, same affiliation as above e-mail: warap@mdanderson.org</p>