This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Chimeric proteins for selectively inducing apoptosis in virally infected cells	Chimeric proteins that induce apoptosis in cells containing viral double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) could be broad-spectrum antivirals. The chimeric proteins consist of three parts: one domain that binds viral dsRNA, a second domain that induces apoptosis and a peptide tag for cellular uptake. In mice challenged with influenza virus, the chimeric protein lowered viral titers and morbidity compared with vehicle controls. Next steps include developing versions of the chimeric proteins that could be delivered orally. SciBX 4(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.949 Published online Aug. 25, 2011	Work covered by patent applications and issued patents; available for licensing	Rider, T.H. <i>et al. PLoS ONE</i> ; published online July 27, 2011; doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0022572 Contact: Todd H. Rider, Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lexington, Mass. e-mail: thor@ll.mit.edu