This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Mixed mitochondria-targeted polymeric nanoparticles for drug delivery	<p>Nanoparticles consisting of a mix of polymeric molecules could help improve drug delivery to the mitochondria. A mitochondria-targeting poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) and polyethylene glycol (PEG) copolymer was blended with nontargeted polymers to generate nanoparticles with optimized size and surface charge. In a human cervical cancer cell line, nanoparticles containing the mitochondria-targeting copolymer showed greater uptake in mitochondria than nanoparticles that lacked the copolymer. In human and murine cell lines, the targeted nanoparticles increased the potency of mitochondria-acting compounds compared with nontargeted nanoparticles. <i>In vivo</i> studies to evaluate the polymeric nanoparticles are underway.</p> <p>SciBX 5(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1017 Published online Sept. 27, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Marrache, S. & Dhar, S. <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 18, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1210096109 Contact: Shanta Dhar, The University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. e-mail: shanta@uga.edu</p>