

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Dendrimer-based drug delivery to treat cerebral palsy	<p>Studies in rabbits identified a dendrimer–small molecule conjugate that crossed the blood brain barrier and could help treat cerebral palsy. In a newborn rabbit model of cerebral palsy, systemic delivery of a conjugate consisting of a dendrimer delivery vehicle linked to the small molecule anti-inflammatory compound N-acetyl-cysteine (NAC) decreased neuroinflammation and increased motor function compared with delivery of vehicle. Imaging studies showed the conjugate localized to microglia and astrocytes in the brain. Next steps include identifying the optimal dosing regimen of the conjugate.</p> <p>The generic NAC is marketed to treat acetaminophen-induced liver injury.</p> <p>SciBX 5(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.451 Published online April 26, 2012</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Kannan, S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 18, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003162 Contact: Rangaramanujam M. Kannan, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: krangar1@jhmi.edu Contact: Roberto Romero, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Detroit, Mich. e-mail: romeror@mail.nih.gov</p>