

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Acyclic cucurbit[<i>n</i>]urils as molecular containers to improve drug solubility	Acyclic cucurbit[<i>n</i>]uril compounds may be useful as molecular containers to increase the solubility of poorly soluble drugs. Solubility enhancement studies showed the containers increased the solubility of 10 drugs by 23–2,750-fold compared with drug alone. In cell-based assays, the generic chemotherapeutic paclitaxel complexed with the container increased cell death compared with the drug or container alone. The container was well tolerated in mice at doses up to 1,230 mg/kg. Next steps include developing additional container-drug conjugates and testing their bioactivity. <i>SciBX</i> 5(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.507 Published online May 10, 2012	Patent applications filed; available for licensing or partnering	Ma, D. <i>et al. Nat. Chem.</i> ; published online April 15, 2012; doi:10.1038/nchem.1326 Contact: Lyle Isaacs, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. e-mail: lisaacs@umd.edu Contact: Volker Briken, same affiliation as above e-mail: vbriken@umd.edu