This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Polymeric glucocorticoid-containing micelles with tailored release kinetics for rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	<p>Polymeric micelles containing glucocorticoids could be useful for treating RA. The micelles were prepared from block copolymers consisting of hydrophilic polyethylene glycol (PEG) and a polymer with temperature-dependent hydrophobic properties. In a mouse model of collagen antibody-induced arthritis, a single injection of dexamethasone-loaded polymeric micelles decreased disease severity compared with injection of unloaded micelles. The dexamethasone-loaded polymeric micelles also had a longer duration of effect than free dexamethasone. Next steps include conducting pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies to determine the mechanism of action and comparing the polymeric micelles with other drug delivery systems.</p> <p>Cristal Delivery B.V., a spin-off from Utrecht University, has three preclinical programs evaluating the polymeric nanoparticles for drug delivery.</p> <p>SciBX 5(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.691 Published online June 28, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; exclusively licensed to Cristal Delivery; available for licensing and/or co-development from Cristal Delivery	<p>Crielaard, B.J. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online June 12, 2012; doi:10.1002/anie.201202713 Contact: Gert Storm, Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: g.storm@uu.nl Contact: Twan Lammers, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany e-mail: tlammers@ukaachen.de</p>