This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Adeno-associated virus (AAV) expression of an anti-nicotine antibody	<p>Persistent expression of an anti-nicotine antibody using an AAV vector could help prevent nicotine addiction. The AAVantiNic vector was generated by engineering AAV to express a Fab fragment of an anti-nicotine mAb. In mice with systemic delivery of nicotine, pretreatment with AAVantiNic led to lower brain nicotine levels and a 47-fold decrease in the ratio of brain to blood nicotine concentrations compared with pretreatment using a control vector. In mice receiving the control vector, systemic nicotine administration decreased blood pressure and heart rate, whereas these effects were blocked in AAVantiNic-treated mice. Next steps include conducting clinical trials and developing an anti-nicotine mAb with higher affinity.</p> <p>SciBX 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.744 Published online July 19, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Hicks, M.J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online June 27, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003611 Contact: Ronald G. Crystal, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: geneticmedicine@med.cornell.edu</p>