This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Nanozymes for antiviral therapy	<p>Nanoparticle-based, RNA-silencing complexes called nanozymes could be useful for antiviral therapy. The nanozymes consisted of gold nanoparticles linked to RNase A and loaded with DNA oligonucleotides targeting viral RNA. In cultured cells infected with HCV, nanozymes targeting HCV NS5A mRNA decreased NS5A protein levels by about 75% compared with control nanoparticles without RNase A. In a mouse model of HCV infection, the HCV NS5A-targeted nanozyme decreased HCV RNA levels compared with control nanoparticles. Next steps include evaluating the long-term efficacy of nanozyme-based treatments of HCV and other viral infections.</p> <p>SciBX 5(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.801 Published online Aug. 2, 2012</p>	<p>Patent pending; available for licensing from the University of Florida Contact: Lenny Terry, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. e-mail: lterry@ufl.edu phone: 352-392-8929</p>	<p>Wang, Z. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 16, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1207766109 Contact: Y. Charles Cao, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Fla. e-mail: cao@chem.ufl.edu Contact: Chen Liu, same affiliation as above e-mail: liu@pathology.ufl.edu</p>