

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Glycosylated triterpene-mediated transdermal delivery of macromolecules	<p><i>Ex vivo</i> studies suggest glycosylated triterpenes are capable of transdermal transport and could help mediate therapeutic macromolecule delivery. In porcine skin, glycosylated triterpenes (avicins) isolated from the desert plant <i>Acacia victoriae</i> were transported across the skin. In this model, coadministration of avicins with estradiol, dextran or insulin increased transdermal delivery compared with saline control administration. Next steps include designing molecules based on the avicin structure to act as chaperones for macromolecule delivery.</p> <p>SciBX 6(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.24 Published online Jan. 10, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Pino, C.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 10, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1200942109 Contact: V. Prasad Shastri, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: prasad.shastri@gmail.com</p>