This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Retinal delivery of gene therapy via intravitreal injection of an engineered adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector	<p>Intravitreal injection of an engineered AAV vector could enable retinal gene therapy. Directed evolution of AAV libraries identified an AAV variant that, after intravitreal injection in normal mice and monkeys, entered photoreceptors and other layers of the outer retina. In mouse models for X-linked retinoschisis or Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA), intravitreal injection of the AAV variant expressing <i>retinoschisis X-linked juvenile 1</i> (<i>Rs1</i>; <i>Xlrs1</i>) or <i>retinal pigment epithelium-specific protein 65 kDa</i> (<i>Rpe65</i>) decreased signs of disease and increased retinal function compared with injection of control AAV vectors expressing the respective genes. Future studies could include testing the AAV variant as a gene therapy vector in animal models for other congenital retinal diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 6(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.738 Published online July 25, 2013</p>	<p>Patented by The Regents of the University of California; licensed to an undisclosed entity; available for partnering</p>	<p>Dalkara, D. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online June 12, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005708 Contact: David V. Schaffer, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: schaffer@berkeley.edu Contact: John G. Flannery, same affiliation as above e-mail: flannery@berkeley.edu</p>