

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Uptake mechanisms to guide intestinal absorption and biodistribution of polymeric microspheres	Rat studies suggest targeting polymeric microspheres to enterocytes could improve drug delivery. In male rats, locally delivered, nonbiodegradable polystyrene microspheres up to 5 μ M in diameter were rapidly absorbed by small intestinal enterocytes and distributed throughout the body. In the rats, endocytosis inhibitors decreased uptake of microspheres delivered orally or locally to the small intestine compared with no treatment. Next steps include using the results to optimize the delivery of biodegradable polymers. SciBX 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.975 Published online Sept. 12, 2013	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Reineke, J.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 6, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1305882110 Contact: Edith Mathiowitz, Brown University, Providence, R.I. e-mail: edith_mathiowitz@brown.edu