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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
RNAi against therapeutic targets with short interfering ribonucleic neutrals (siRNNs)	siRNNs could enable RNAi knockdown of therapeutic targets in a broader range of cells and tissue types than siRNA. siRNNs are siRNA-like oligonucleotides modified with neutral phosphotriester groups and are converted into siRNAs after entering a cell. In mice, *apolipoprotein B* (*Apob*)-targeted siRNNs conjugated to a hepatocyte-targeting domain achieved more potent RNAi knockdown of the lipoprotein in the liver than an *Apob*-targeted siRNA conjugated to the same targeting domain. In human serum, siRNNs were more stable than siRNAs; in human peripheral blood monocytes, siRNNs did not stimulate an innate immune response. Ongoing work by Solstice Biologics LLC includes the generation of siRNN-based therapeutic candidates.	Patent applications filed; exclusively licensed to Solstice Biologics	Meade, B.R. *et al. Nat. Biotechnol.*; published online Nov. 17, 2014; doi:10.1038/nbt.3078 **Contact:** Steven F. Dowdy, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: sdowdy@ucsd.edu

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