

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
<i>Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)</i> gene therapy delivered to the inner ear using cochlear implants	A study in guinea pigs suggests delivering gene therapy to the inner ear using cochlear implants could improve the ability of the implants to aid hearing. In a guinea pig model of deafness, an electronic cochlear implant that delivered plasmid cDNA encoding human BDNF by electroporation increased neurite outgrowth, neuron density and hearing compared with implants that delivered a plasmid cDNA control. Next steps include optimizing the duration of gene therapy delivery and testing other neurotrophic factors delivered by this method.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Pinyon, J.L. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online April 23, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3008177 Contact: Gary D. Housley, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia e-mail: g.housley@unsw.edu.au
	SciBX 7(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.541 Published online May 8, 2014		