This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Caspase activity-based probes (ABPs) to image apoptosis during chemotherapy	<p>Studies in mice suggest that caspase ABPs could be used to image apoptosis. In mice with apoptotic thymuses, fluorescently labeled caspase ABPs tagged active caspase-3 (CASP3; CPP32) in the thymus. CASP3 is an early marker of apoptosis. In xenograft mice, tumors treated with the proapoptotic antibody Apomab plus caspase ABP showed CASP3 fluorescent labeling, which was monitored noninvasively. Next steps include monitoring the activity of radiolabeled caspase ABPs in positron emission tomography (PET) studies and conducting toxicity studies. Apomab, a human mAb agonist of the proapoptotic tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 10b (TNFRSF10B; DR5; TRAILR2; CD262) from Genentech Inc. and Roche, is in Phase Ib testing to treat metastatic colorectal cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1129 Published online July 23, 2009</p>	<p>A patent application has been filed covering the use of the probes for apoptosis imaging during fluorescence and PET imaging; licensed to Akrotome Imaging Inc. for preclinical and clinical diagnostic imaging applications; the technology will be available for licensing from Akrotome</p>	<p>Edgington, L. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1938 Contact: Matthew Bogoyo, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: mbogoyo@stanford.edu</p>