This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Near-infrared imaging of β -amyloid ($A\beta$) deposits with curcumin-derived compounds	A curcumin-derived imaging agent could help detect $A\beta$ aggregates to diagnose Alzheimer's disease (AD). Upon binding to aggregates <i>in vitro</i> and in brain slices from AD mouse models, the fluorescent curcumin analog emitted a signal that was about 70 times greater than that of the unbound agent. Injection of the compound into mouse models of AD allowed detection of $A\beta$ plaques in about 30 minutes. Ongoing work seeks to modify the agent for PET imaging. SciBX 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1682 Published online Nov. 19, 2009	Patented by Massachusetts General Hospital; available for licensing Contact: Weijen (Elana) Wang, Partners HealthCare System Inc., Boston, Mass. e-mail: wwang9@partners.org	Ran, C. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Oct. 6, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja9047043 Contact: Anna Moore, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: amoore@helix.mgh.harvard.edu