This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Protein nanoparticle sensors of kinase activity	<p>Ferritin nanoparticles engineered for MRI detection of protein kinase A (PKA) could be useful for monitoring memory pathology, seizures and other neurological disorders. Proof-of-concept studies showed that the nanoparticles followed real-time PKA response rates that were associated with physiological processes in the brain. Ongoing work is focused on delivering ferritin nanoparticles into cells, and planned experiments include engineering cells to produce nanoparticle sensors <i>in situ</i> for imaging cellular activity following transplantation or gene therapy.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.246 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Shapiro, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Jan. 29, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja8086938</p> <p>Contact: Alan Jasanoff, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jasanoff@mit.edu</p>