This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
pH-responsive nanoparticles for drug delivery	Engineered polymeric nanoparticles that expand several hundredfold in response to a change in pH from 7.4 to 5 could be useful for improving delivery of paclitaxel and other hydrophobic drugs. In a mouse model of lung cancer, paclitaxel-loaded nanoparticles that expanded significantly prevented tumor growth compared with what was seen using paclitaxel-loaded nanoparticles that did not expand, nonloaded nanoparticles or paclitaxel alone ($p < 0.0005$ for all). Next steps could include assessing the safety profile of the expandable nanoparticles in animal models and humans.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Griset, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Jan. 29, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja807416t Contact: Mark W. Grinstaff, Boston University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: mgrin@bu.edu
	SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.249 Published online Feb. 12, 2009		