This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Antibody-coupled Au-Fe ₃ O ₄ nanoparticles for target-specific platinum delivery	<p>Antibody-coupled Au-Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles for platinum delivery could be useful for treating cancer. Nanoparticles were linked to Herceptin, a HER2 (ERBB2)-specific mAb, and a platinum-containing compound. In HER2-positive human breast cancer cell lines, the platinum-loaded HER2-specific nanoparticles resulted in greater decreases in cell viability than those seen using free cisplatin and platinum-loaded nanoparticles without Herceptin. Next steps include evaluating the distribution and efficacy of the nanoparticle system in animal cancer models.</p> <p>Herceptin trastuzumab is marketed by Genentech Inc. and Roche to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.470 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Dumbbell-like nanoparticles and a process of forming them patented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Xu, C. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online March 10, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja900790v</p> <p>Contact: Shouheng Sun, Brown University, Providence, R.I. e-mail: ssun@brown.edu</p>